

DAILY REPORT

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 070

13 April 1987

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LOCAL ELECTIONS: KEY ISSUES, RESULTS, ANALYSIS

Nakasone's Political Future

OW120459 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO -- Japanese voters cast ballots Sunday in 44 of the 47 prefectures nationwide in local elections whose outcome could wreak havoc on the political career of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in the immediate future.

At stake were 13 gubernatorial posts, 2,670 prefectural assembly seats in 44 prefectures, two mayoral posts and 655 city assembly seats.

Normally, national issues are not considered important in provincial contests.

But this time, candidates for the seats up for grabs waged their campaign almost only on one issue: A 5 percent sales tax proposed by Nakasone and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Nakasone's government wants the tax to be enforced on January 1, 1988 in return for personal and corporate income tax cuts.

All opposition parties have opposed it and have stalled parliamentary proceedings, charging that Nakasone broke his promise not to introduce a large-scale indirect tax.

During local election campaigns, even LDP candidates refused to seek Nakasone's personal appearances for fear of giving voters the impression they supported the proposed European style value-added tax.

A poor showing in Sunday's polls may trigger calls from factional leaders in the ruling party to demand Nakasone's resignation.

On the eve of the election, former Transport Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told a gathering in Sendai that Nakasone will be asked to step down after the June summit of industrialized democracies in Venice.

Mitsuzuka, secretary general of the faction led by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, said he was expressing his personal views.

But he became the first senior LDP official to speak publically at the time of Nakasone's resignation.

The polls opened at 7 a.m. and are scheduled to close at 6 p.m.

Results of the election except for those in Tokyo, Kanagawa and Osaka will be known by midnight.

Election Results

OW130021 Tokyo KYODO in English 0003 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO -- The ruling Liberal Democrats faced a major setback in Sunday's local elections as the opposition made significant gains in prefectural assemblies while reformist incumbents rolled to overwhelming victories in two crucial gubernatorial races.

The result is likely to jeopardize Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's plan to introduce a 5 percent sales tax, an issue which dominated the entire campaign.

Both Socialist and Communist-backed candidates made steady gains in the 2,190 prefectural assembly seats decided Sunday out of 2,670 seats at stake.

Returns tabulated Sunday showed that the LDP may come about 100 seats short of the 1,487 seats it won in the assembly elections four years ago.

In the 13 gubernatorial races held Sunday, Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi, 46, a reformist backed by the Socialists and Democratic Socialists, won a second term, defeating the LDP challenger by a 2-to-1 margin.

Gov. Hachiji Okuda, 66, the reformist incumbent in Fukuoka, another key race at stake, also retained the governorship, beating the conservative challenger, Kenzo Tanaka, by a 53 to 47 margin.

Tanaka, a former Kyushu University president, was backed by the LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Vote counting for the gubernatorial races in Tokyo, Osaka and Kanagawa started Monday morning and results are expected to be known by mid-morning. All prefectural assembly election results, together with 655 city assembly seats and two mayoral posts at stake will also be decided Monday morning.

In Shimane, a conservative stronghold in western Honshu, conservative newcomer Nobuyoshi Sumita was elected governor in a bitterly fought race against Iwao Odagawa.

Sumita, backed by the LDP, won 51.1 percent of the votes, against 43.3 percent for Odagawa, who was supported by the JSP and the DSP.

All other gubernatorial races declared Sunday -- Akita, Fukui, Iwate, Ibaraki, Tottori, Saga and Oita -- were won by multiparty-backed incumbents.

Voter turnout Sunday was the lowest on record, with balloting for the 13 gubernatorial races registering 59.78 percent, down from 63.21 percent in the previous election, the Home Affairs Ministry said. Balloting for the 44 prefectural assembly elections came to 66.66 percent, 1.81 points lower than the previous election, the ministry said.

Sunday's poll was the first major test of voter attitude since the LDP won a landslide victory in the twin parliamentary elections held in July last year.

Nakasone Concedes Setback

OW130219 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Monday conceded his Liberal Democratic Party suffered a setback in Sunday's nationwide local elections, saying he takes the outcome "with gravity."

Speaking to reporters at the prime ministers official residence Monday morning, Nakasone singled out the LDP setback in the prefectural assembly elections, noting that the results "were contrary to our expectations."

Nakasone, however, defended the results in the 13 gubernatorial elections, calling them as "tolerable."

The LDP won three of the 13 gubernatorial elections but the party also backed eight other successful gubernatorial candidates who ran with multiple party support.

In the prefectural assembly elections, returns tabulated Sunday showed the LDP may come about 100 seats short of the 1,487 seats it won in the assembly elections four years ago.

Nakasone conceded that the LDP setbacks in Fukuoka and Hokkaido, the two key gubernatorial races Sunday, may affect the government plan to introduce a controversial sales tax, the dominant issue during the campaign.

"I can't say it won't have (any impact) on the sales-tax proposal," Nakasone said but refused to comment on reports that pressure is building up within the LDP to scrap the tax plan.

However, Nakasone vowed he would try to carry out the tax reform he has been pushing at the Diet.

The sales tax plan is part of the radical tax reform which Nakasone has said is necessary to bring Japan's tax system in line with those in the industrial world.

Political Fate Clouded

OW130345 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's political fate has become clouded as Japanese voters said no to his controversial plan for a sales tax in nationwide local elections Sunday. [passage omitted]

His conservative party, in power since 1955, suffered a major setback at the polls while the Japan Socialist and Communist parties made headway in local assemblies.

Especially serious for the LDP were its losses in two crucial gubernatorial races in Hokkaido to the north and in Fukuoka to the south, where reformist incumbents retained their posts.

The LDP hopes to regain at least one of the two governorships it lost four years ago, prompting LDP Secretary General Noboru Takeshita to say, "The election result in Fukuoka was regrettable for our party."

The LDP's failure to regain gubernatorial seats in these two strategically important areas underscores a reversal of the political trend in favor of the conservatives who won a landslide victory in Diet elections last July, political analysts say. [passage omitted]

The 20-day local election campaign was dominated by debate over a 5 percent sales tax Nakasone proposed to reform Japan's tax system for the first time in 36 years.

The proposal has met with widespread opposition not only from opposition parties but also from many LDP candidates who chose not to invite Nakasone to campaign on their behalf -- a practice never observed before.

Political analysts said the fact the LDP candidates distanced themselves from Nakasone and his sales tax proposal in the just-ended first round of local elections is a clear verdict in itself on Nakasone's politics.

The election results, analysts say, have undermined the notion that Nakasone is strong at elections, a sign of political crisis for the prime minister. Also at stake is Nakasone's image as a skillful international diplomat.

Nakasone goes to Washington on an official visit later this month for talks with President Ronald Reagan to defuse economic tension between the two countries but diplomatic analysts expect few results from the visit.

Nakasone wants to see the fiscal 1987 national budget cleared through the Diet before his U.S. visit but political analysts say its passage is impossible unless he withdraws or drastically modifies the sales tax, which is similar to a European value-added tax.

Japanese voters, dissatisfied with the sales tax plan, mounting friction with the United States and the ever rising yen, gave about a 25 percent approval rating to Nakasone in recent media polls from a high of more than 50 percent last year.

Sales Tax To Remain

OW130427 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO -- The government has no plan to scrap the sales tax proposal amid mixed signals on the controversial tax program following a major Liberal Democratic Party setback in the nationwide local elections, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda said Monday.

Gotoda, the chief government spokesman, spelled out the government position amid growing demands from opposition parties that the LDP withdraw the tax from the Diet. "There is no other way but for the LDP to withdraw the sales tax," Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi told reporters Monday. Other opposition leaders also made similar demands after returns Monday showed the LDP suffered a major setback in the nationwide local elections.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone conceded that the sales tax was partly to blame for the LDP setback at the polls, but insisted that a major reform of Japan's tax reform is necessary to cope with current trade frictions.

The prime minister, however, refused to comment on reports that there is growing pressure within the LDP to scrap the sales tax. He said he is ready to listen to public opinion and put the tax bill through "careful" debate at the Diet.

Elaborating on Nakasone's remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru suggested that the government is ready to put off implementation of the sales tax, noting that "there is no time limit" for careful debate at the Diet.

LDP Executive Council Chairman Shintaro Abe said the party should "respect" the outcome of the local elections in handling the tax bill.

The government's proposed 5 percent sales tax is set for implementation January 1, 1988. However, a senior LDP leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested that the government will be forced to scrap the sales tax "since the opposition will not entertain a revision."

MITI OFFICIAL ON COUNTERING U.S. SANCTIONS

OW110631 Tokyo KYODO in English 0620 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO -- A high-ranking official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Saturday said the Japanese Government will consider lodging a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and initiate other countermeasures if the United States enforces on April 17 100 percent punitive tariffs on 300 million dollars worth of Japanese electronic products in retaliation for Japan's alleged violation of a bilateral semiconductor trade pact.

Shinji Fukukawa, MITI's vice minister, told a press conference after a deadlock in two-day emergency talks over the chip trade dispute in Washington, that it is "extremely regrettable" for U.S. trade negotiators "not to listen" to Japan's factual explanations that Japanese chip makers stopped accepting new orders for semiconductors at below-cost prices and foreign firms' access to Japan has been improved "remarkably." Fukukawa said in his statement, "U.S. discriminatory tariffs would violate GATT provisions and the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation." But Fukukawa refused to elaborate on what "other countermeasures" means.

"Despite our sincere attitude toward the issue, U.S. negotiators unilaterally broke off the emergency consultations and gave us no details about evidence that Japanese chip makers are selling their products below fair market value," he said.

Fukukawa went on to say that the U.S. negotiators failed to provide an explicit explanation as to how they arrived at the 300 million dollar trade loss figure.

In response to a question about the possibility of terminating the bilateral seven-month-old semiconductor accord, the vice chief of MITI said his ministry has no idea, while a just-announced statement from a spokesman of the U.S. Trade Representative Office stated "the U.S. does not want to terminate it (the chip pact)." "The Japanese Government will make last-ditch efforts to persuade the U.S. administration to lift sanctions, announced by President Ronald Reagan on March 27," Fukukawa said.

OFFICIAL TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR SDI TALKS

OW101313 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO -- Japan will send an official to Washington Sunday to hold informed talks with U.S. Defense Department officials on Japan's participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), government sources said Friday.

The sources said the Foreign Ministry will dispatch Makoto Watanabe, councillor for its North American Bureau, to meet Pentagon officials to discuss concrete details of Japan's participation in the U.S. anti-ballistic defense program. The Japanese Government has decided to join in the research phase of the SDI.

The talks, which Japan sees as a final adjustment on the issue with the United States before the holding of a formal meeting, will center on assuring the rights of the Japanese firms involved to utilize the results of the space defense research, the sources said. Protection of the secrecy of the results and publication of the final Japan-U.S. SDI Agreement will be on the agenda, they added.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN CALLS FOR TALKS

SK120955 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0849 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA) -- A spokesman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in his interview with a KCNA reporter on April 12 referred to a series of problems arising in the 24th Olympic Games.

Noting that we put forward the proposal for the North-South cohosting of Olympics as a way for solving the problem of the 24th Olympics as a way for solving the problem of the 24th Olympic Games and are making preparations in a planned way in expectation of its realisation, he said:

Although everything is important in the preparation for the Olympic Games, priority should be given to building excellent sports facilities and Olympic Villages. We are now constructing the Angol Sports Village consisting of over 10 gymnasiums and stadiums in scenic and beautiful Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, and building the Kwangbok Street which will be used as an Olympic village.

And we are building a large-scale modern sports complex with 150,000 seats in Nungra Islet and a handsome football stadium in Yanggak Islet and reconstructing and expanding the existing stadiums and sports facilities on modern lines under a far-reaching plan.

At the same time, we are building all kinds of cultural establishments and service facilities in different places of Pyongyang for all functions to be held and for the convenience of foreign guests during the Olympic Games.

We are making every effort to offer excellent sports facilities and ensure all conveniences to sportsmen, officials, reporters and tourists in case the Olympic cohosting is realised and the Olympic Games are held in Pyongyang.

Touching upon the fourth round of Lausanne talks which will discuss the Olympic cohosting problem, he continued:

As the date of the 24th Olympic Games is coming near day by day, the world people and the world public pay greater attention to these games and long for the early solution of the problem of the Olympic cohosting at the Lausanne talks.

It is natural.

The bilateral talks held between the DPRK National Olympic Committee and the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee in February agreed upon holding the fourth round of Lausanne talks which were suspended.

But the talks have not yet been held even two months after the decision was made to convene the fourth round of Lausanne talks and even the date of the talks has not been fixed.

Needless to say, Olympic Games need preparations in advance and time:

We cannot understand the reason why the International Olympic Committee which knows such situation better than anyone else does not quickly decide the date of the fourth round of Lausanne talks.

The world public, too, is doubtful about this.

As the fourth round of Lausanne talks have not been held and a final agreement has not been made, we are facing some obstacles in our preparations for the Olympic Games, though we are building large-scale facilities as mentioned above.

We have much to do for the Olympics.

We are preparing to host the games in 8 events, but facing some difficulties in making detailed preparations as we are not sure of the sports games to be staged and specifically what sport facilities have to be built for them.

As to the organisation and operation of the games, there are problems to be solved internally and externally and numerous problems to be settled between the North and the South.

Solution of these detailed problems can be decisively pushed ahead only when the fourth round of Lausanne talks are held as early as possible and sports events to be hosted by our side are confirmed and such important problems as the name, formation of the organising committee and opening and closing ceremonies of the games are settled.

Little more than one year is left till the 24th Olympic Games.

We have big obstacles in our preparations for the games as the fourth round of Lausanne talks have not been held and the final agreement has not been made.

This situation demands an early convocation of the fourth round of Lausanne talks.

Our Olympic Committee is ready to make all efforts to participate in the talks and reach the final agreement.

In addition, he answered other questions.

NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY ON NKDP SPLIT

SK111205 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2147 GMT 10 Apr 87

[NODONG SINMUN 11 April commentary: "What Does the Split Within the NKDP Show?"]

[Text] The NDKP, which had been wrangling over the issue of constitutional revision and that of party power, recently experienced a split within the party. According to a report, the absolute majority of lawmakers belonging to the NKDP bolted from it and formed a preparatory committee for founding a new party.

In connection with the NKDP split, the DJP made comments, saying that the split came about because some figures of the party attempted to make the party a private party to satisfy their greed for power, accusing the opposition political rivals.

What should be noted here is by whom the NDKP has to suffer the disgrace of a split within the party. Judged objectively, it is none other than the DJP hooligans and the United States directing and controlling them behind the scenes.

All the world knows how the U.S. imperialists have been bent on trying to maintain a pro-U.S. dictatorial regime in South Korea, perturbed by the rapid heightening of the anti-U.S. aspiration for independence and the antifascist aspiration for democratization in South Korea after the Kwangju incident.

When the South Korean opposition party, encouraged by developments in the Philippines in which the opposition party expelled the pro-U.S. dictatorial Marcos regime with the people's support, strongly called for constitutional revision for a direct election system and overthrowing the dictatorship, reflecting the will of the broad masses, the United States made an even more frantic attempt to prevent South Korea from becoming another Philippines.

The strategy, which the United States gave its lackeys in South Korea at that time, was that of a ruling-opposition compromise. The U.S. strategy of compromise, on the premise of the opposition party following the present ruling party's line as it is, came against natural counterattack.

To cope with this, the United States sent Secretary of State Shultz and other politicians and intelligence machinators to South Korea one after another. Pledging its support for dictatorial power, it conducted a persuasion operation with the opposition party, urging it to accept the compromise. At the same time it had some figures of the opposition party come to the United States and demanded that they withdraw their call for radical democratization, employing double tactics of threatening and appeasing and offering bait.

The fact that the United States replaced the U.S. ambassador to South Korea and the head of the CIA in South Korea with big shot intelligence men all at the same time at the end of last year shows well how busily they worked to solve the South Korean political situation. Social and press circles, including publications in Japan, then predicted that the U.S. (?temptation) would lead to the split of the NKDP.

Following the scenario of ruling-opposition compromise written by its masters, the Chon Tu-hwan ring implemented the double tactic of appeasement on one hand and suppression on the other. Traitor Chon Tu-hwan changed his positions from the theory of absolutely adhering to the Constitution, in which he asserted that the present Constitution cannot be changed, to the can-revise-the-Constitution theory and the theory of constitutional revision during his term of office, and managed to draw the opposition party into negotiations for constitutional revision temporarily. In place of the opposition party's plan for constitutional revision for a direct election system, he put forward a plan for constitutional revision for a parliamentary cabinet system, insisting that their plan for constitutional revision is the only way to democratization.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, a paper published in the United States, said that if direct elections were held, as demanded by the opposition party, Chon Tu-hwan probably would be defeated by nearly all his rivals. The DJP plan for constitutional revision for a parliamentary cabinet system has been prepared under such circumstances to realize its scheme for retaking power without much difficulty in the National Assembly, where it has the majority seats. It is clear to everyone that traitor Chon Tu-hwan's plan for constitutional revision designed to prolong the DJP fascist dictatorship cannot receive support.

The NKDP demanded that the constitutional revision plan of the ruling and opposition parties be put to a referendum. It abandoned negotiations for constitutional revision and waged a struggle outside the National Assembly to achieve constitutional revision through a system of directly electing the president.

Perplexed by this, the Chon Tu-hwan ring adopted the policy of suppressing and undermining the opposition party as a whole. Traitor Chon Tu-hwan and his DJP rabble arrested and punished a national assemblyman from the opposition party, who has the privilege of immunity for his speech in the National Assembly, on charges of speaking about a national policy for reunification. By mobilizing more than 100,000 policemen, they bestially suppressed and hindered a Seoul meeting of the NKDP for realizing constitutional revision through a system of direct presidential elections, which were scheduled to be held with the participation of a million people. This shows how indiscreet the rascals' suppression of the opposition party was.

By using factions within the NKDP, the rascals did their best to divide and undermine the party. Foreign news reports reported that the Chon Tu-hwan ring promised some members of the opposition party that it would give them ministerial positions within the government under a parliamentary cabinet system and had them take the lead in an intrigue designed to undermine the NKDP.

The Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u faction of the DJP said that it would bilaterally achieve constitutional revision by rallying political factions in case it failed to achieve constitutional revision by reaching an agreement with the opposition party early in the year. This was a trick used by them, foreseeing a way to divide and undermine the NKDP, after deeply stretching their dark hands into the opposition party.

On the eve of the split of the NKDP, people from a local chapter of this party occupied the NKDP building for several days, creating chaos. In light of his fascist nature, we can say that traitor Chon Tu-hwan would have raised a riot by mobilizing tyrannical armed forces without the request of the NKDP. Not long ago when the DJP building and the American Cultural Center were seized, the rascals carried out recapturing operations by mobilizing special task forces in addition to a tear gas offensive through the mobilization of a large number of armed policemen. Contrary to this, the Chon Tu-hwan ring completely ignored the occupation of the NKDP building; it pretended that it had heard nothing when the NKDP spokesman issued a statement calling for intervention by the police.

Has the fascist nature of traitor Chon Tu-hwan changed? No. The incident was the outcome of the manipulation by the DJP rabble designed to divide and undermine the NKDP.

The division of the NKDP is the outcome of the U.S. imperialists' support for the Chon Tu-hwan ring, which seeks long-term office, to remedy the crisis of colonial and military rule, and is a direct product of the puppets' criminal and conspiratorial maneuvers to eliminate their political opposition forces.

The split of the NKDP shows that in colonial and fascist society like South Korea, those opposition parties which have political views that differ from those harbored by the United States and its stooges cannot satisfactorily carry out their activities as a result of their being soaked in blood due to the wielding of swords by the authorities, and that these opposition parties will eventually be unable to maintain their existence. The division of the NKDP also shows that the Chon Tu-hwan ring's maneuvers to continuously remain in power by making the opposition party impotent and a handmaiden, by monopolizing the National Assembly and by achieving constitutional revision by adopting a parliamentary cabinet system has reached a very cunning and base stage.

No sooner than had the NKDP been split and undermined did the DJP rabble exposed their attempt to accelerate the political timetable, babbling about the bilateral handling of issues and about a lesson in April. This is an attempt to lay a legal foundation for their reusurpation of power before the opposition party rallies its forces. However, things will not work as demanded by the puppets. The key of the development of history is in the hands of the masses of people. The South Korean people oppose with the spirit of do or die the reusurpation of power by traitor Chon Tu-hwan and by his DJP; they are making preparations for a struggle to blow away the military and dictatorial regime. It is by no means accidental that foreign news reports said that the Chon Tu-hwan regime is atop a volcano on the eve of explosion. The South Korean students and people will never permit or overlook the Chon Tu-hwan ring's maneuvers to prolong its term in office.

CPRF DENOUNCES U.S. NUCLEAR THREAT TO NORTH

SK130553 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0521 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA) -- The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland published its Information No. 390 on April 12, denouncing the U.S. imperialists' crimes in threatening the North more blatantly with nuclear weapons these days.

The information says:

THE NEW YORK TIMES of the United States on April 9 reported outbursts of U.S. warmaniacs that "it is almost certain that the United States would use a nuclear weapon", if a war broke out on the Korean peninsula and the commander of the U.S. imperialists aggression forces occupying South Korea blustered that the U.S. forces and the South Korean puppet army would "make a deep thrust" into the northern half of Korea in case of a war on the Korean peninsula.

These successive bellicose blasts of the U.S. imperialist aggressors are a malicious challenge to our people's desire for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and reckless nuclear blackmail to us.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have thrown an unprecedented quantity of means of nuclear strike into this year's "Team Spirit" manoeuvres and are running wild in nuclear war exercises, letting fly even the "E-4B" plane which the U.S. President and top brasshats are to use for commanding a total nuclear war. This clearly shows to what extent they have gone in their war moves.

While resorting to provocations and threats, the U.S. imperialist aggressors are noisily advertising the North's fictitious "threat" and "provocation" and threatening us with the use of nuclear weapons. This is intended to mislead public opinion at home and abroad denouncing and rejecting their nuclear war provocation scheme and crush the spring season struggle of students and people ever growing in South Korea.

HANGUK ILBO CARRIES 'TEXT' OF CHON SPEECH

SK130500 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 13 Apr 87 Special Edition p 1

[Text of television address by ROK President Chon Tu-hwan from Chongwadae on 13 April]

[Text] My fellow countrymen, today I wish to speak personally to you about my thoughts regarding the constitutional issue that has attracted great public concern and to ask for your understanding and cooperation. It is often said time flies like an arrow. Now only about 10 months are left in my presidency. At this very moment, I feel a heavy sense of responsibility. This is because the national tasks that must be accomplished during the remainder of my tenure are so momentous and the potential consequences of the choices that we are going to make are so critical. We must make the right choices if we are to nurture the rewarding fruit of achievements that we have attained through concerted hard work. In view of the importance of this period and the urgency of the political agenda, I think the majority of the people hope that the constitutional issue will be resolved one way or another so that we can keep moving forward.

Fortunately, our steady efforts over the past seven years have not been wasted, and we have grown and developed impressively in many fields. To our chagrin, however, it is also true that the political situation over the past year or so has not lived up to public expectations, bringing instead disappointment and frustration. Deplorably, the efforts to amend the Constitution by consensus as so ardently desired by the public have not made even an inch of headway. Serious partisan and factional antagonisms and confrontation have only persisted. The entire people are worried that if things continue to go on like this, there will be no way to unravel in concert the knot of a constitutional amendment and that there will be nothing but public divisiveness and social confusion, eventually making it exceedingly difficult to achieve a peaceful transfer of power in a proper manner.

Fellow citizens, ever since I assumed the presidency, I have been exerting all my energies to realize a peaceful change of government with an unflagging commitment to root democracy in this land by all means.

The task of a peaceful change of government has not been accomplished even once in the 40 years since we adopted liberal democracy as the founding ideal of the Republic of Korea. It is a long-standing problem that no chief executive, no political party and no politician has solved. This clearly illustrates the core element of democratic development in Korea.

A peaceful transition of power is the fundamental and most important precondition for accomplishing genuine democratic development in this land. As you all know well, the current Constitution has introduced a single term presidency for the first time in Korean constitutional history in response to the dictate to terminate the vicious cycle of protracted personal rule and to establish democracy. The current Constitution ensures a peaceful transition of power more thoroughly than any previous one.

The strength of the public desire for a peaceful transfer of power was demonstrated by the overwhelming public endorsement of the Constitution in national referendum 7 years ago. I believed that it was the responsibility of the president to observe and implement the Constitution just as it was because it had come into force by a courageous political decision of the people. I continued to believe that it is not wise to amend the Constitution even before the single-term presidency clauses -- the kernel of the Constitution -- had been implemented even once.

Yet, about a year ago, on April 30, 1986, I met with the leaders of the three major political parties and stated that I would not object to amending the Constitution even during my tenure, if the government party and the opposition could agree on and recommend a good bill to do so. The way to constitutional reform by consensus was thus opened. I made that decision in view of the serious confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition at that time over the issue of whether or not to revise the Constitution and the consequent clashes in the streets, and out of a fervent desire to prevent social chaos and political strife and to build a new framework for mature democratic politics based on grand national harmony. Accordingly, with the expectation that earnest efforts to forge a consensus through dialogue and compromise would be made in the National Assembly, I dealt with the matter with patience and good faith.

So when the opposition raised a demand to create an ad hoc National Assembly Committee for Constitutional Reform, it was accepted without hesitation. Moreover, the agreement that the committee be made up of an equal number of ruling party and opposition members represented an extraordinary concession hardly thinkable for a majority party.

Above all else, the ruling party changed its previous policy of opposing any amendment to the Constitution and worked out and presented an amendment bill providing for a parliamentary cabinet system. This was yet more evidence that the Democratic Justice Party was upholding a true spirit of compromise. Furthermore, the government party exerted every possible effort to normalize the ad hoc committee at a number of meetings between the representatives of the political parties in and out of power and also by indicating its willingness on every possible occasion to positively consider various opposition demands. In that way, the ruling party earnestly sought to conduct negotiations. In spite of such steadfast efforts, the opposition stubbornly stuck to its demand for a direct presidential election system and has yet to yield even an inch of ground.

It is difficult to understand how on earth the minority party intends to resolve the constitutional issue and to practice democratic principles even while rejecting any and all forms of compromise. It is mere delusion for them to think that democracy will fully blossom if only the Constitution is amended even while they do not properly observe the existing laws.

This point is eloquently illustrated by our political history characterized by revisions of the Constitution on as many as eight occasions. I want to make it clear that since my commitment to single-term presidency is unwavering, I do not have any personal stake in the Constitution. However, being a president due to step down shortly, I think I am in a better position than anyone else to consider the constitutional issue with an open mind, from a fair viewpoint, and in a long-term perspective for the future of the country and the people.

Any political system is bound to have its own merits and drawbacks. It is true, however, that we are relatively well accustomed to a direct presidential election system since we have experienced several versions in the past. However, that experience was nothing to be proud of and far from desirable. Under the pretext that the people wanted it, there were frequent constitutional changes to prolong an individual's hold on power, leading to the numerous negative consequences of protracted one-man rule. Thus, all endeavors to effect a peaceful transition of power failed. Furthermore, overzealous election campaigns throughout the nation bred rampant terrorism and violent disturbances. Candidates for public office made grossly unrealistic campaign promises in super-abundance and huge campaign funds were expended, causing economic crises. What is more, regional antagonisms were inflamed, sharply dividing the people. We still vividly remember all such woes. Especially noteworthy is the fact that in all the six direct presidential elections in the past, the government party was invariably the winner.

Accordingly, the widely accepted conclusion has been that a direct presidential election system inherently favors the ruling party. Accordingly, even after an election was over, the opposition refused to accept its result, causing serious lingering aftereffects. Thus, all-or-nothing struggles were repeated over and over again. It is because of such defects and dangers that the presidential system, together with our unfortunate constitutional history, was buried in the past.

To try to revive a superannuated system today when the nation has been rapidly developing and the people have attained a matured political attitude, is tantamount to trying to turn the clock back. To look at foreign examples, over 40 developing countries of the world's 170-plus nations have adopted direct presidential election systems. However, peaceful transfers of power have been properly effected in only few such countries.

So if we are to revise the Constitution after all, it is logical to try to change it into an even better one. In adopting a constitution or any other institution, the historic background, cultural tradition, political realities and other factors must be taken into account. The Democratic Justice Party has proposed a parliamentary cabinet system as a compromise alternative to the present system after taking all such problems into consideration. The DJP-proposed system would be capable of satisfying the diverse desires of the various segments of the pluralistic society that we have today and would make it possible for the government party and the opposition to coexist as partners in government, rather than be embroiled in obstinate confrontation. It would be capable of ensuring democratic development and would be conducive to accomplishing the current task to advance into the ranks of the developed nations on the strength of private initiative and openness. This is why the parliamentary cabinet system is often called the quintessence of democracy. This point is supported by the fact that most of the advanced democratic countries, especially those in Europe which is the home of democracy, have adopted this form of government. This is also why the past orthodox opposition parties in Korea vocally advocated a cabinet system. There have been few foreign examples of a government party taking the initiative in proposing to switch from a presidential system.

My fellow countrymen, As you know well, the ruling party has voluntarily proposed a cabinet system. But the opposition has not only adamantly rejected it but has also made the prospects for any constitutional reform by consensus extremely dim by involving itself in severe intraparty chaos and infighting. I believe that the majority of the people now wonder if it will be possible after all to shape a consensus with the opposition who seems unable to resolve its own internal problems through dialogue and compromise, and is thus heading for catastrophe. In view of the mess in the opposition camp these days, it is not difficult to see that the implementation of our political agenda would be greatly set back if continued to wait indefinitely for it to come around.

If such is the case, all of us must think together what we must do at this juncture if we are to successfully carry out a peaceful transfer of power to open a new chapter in the development of Korean democracy. I do not think it would be appropriate for the ruling party to unilaterally ram through a constitutional amendment bill by dint of the number of votes it can command. A constitutional amendment by nature should not be forced through unilaterally by either the ruling party or the opposition. It is self-evident that if the Constitution is amended arbitrarily it would cause unreasonable strain, and no matter how well meant, would hardly achieve its intended results. It would only deepen social and political chaos and strife. We must not tolerate such a development in view of the lessons of our political history and also of the political maturity of the Korean people. Especially when we already have a Constitution, we cannot find any urgent reason to resort to such a high-handed method in revising the basic law.

My fellow citizens, as I have noted earlier, the DJP has been making steadfast efforts to amend the Constitution by consensus. However, it has now become evident that the prospects for constitutional reform by consensus have become hopefully dim. Moreover, time has run out and we cannot wait any longer for a consensus to emerge.

Such a state affairs poses a truly grave dilemma especially for me in view of my unchangeable commitment to honor the pledge to step down at the end of my term of office. The political agenda for transferring the reins of government must be smoothly carried out. To that end, it must be decided, first of all, what constitution can serve as the basis for the scheduled transition of power.

Accordingly, I have been waiting more eagerly than anyone else for constitutional reform by consensus to become a reality. Up to now, however, there has been no progress. Since I must keep my promise by all means, I think you can fully understand the depth of anxiety that I have been experiencing because the way to fulfill my pledge is being blocked, although time is quickly running out. The time left for us at present is not even enough to carry out the necessary political agenda and make practical preparations for a change of government.

To amend the Constitution, several months will have to be spent on debate, the subsequent voting process in the National Assembly and a national referendum. Even after the constitution has been amended, another several months will have to be spent on preparing and passing revised election laws, over which the interests of the government party and the opposition are apt to sharply conflict, on preparing numerous other attendant laws and finally on holding elections under the modified laws.

If we deal with matters relating to the birth of a new administration hastily and crudely because of the pressure of time, this in and by itself would be a cause of controversy and confusion. To do so would thus be irresponsible and would adversely affect the future of the country.

At this critical juncture, I must thus make a momentous decision in light of the urgency of time and also of the overall domestic situation. Having determined that it has become impossible to amend the Constitution during my tenure, I hereby announce that in accordance with the existing Constitution, I will turn the reins of government over to my successor on February 25, 1988, when my term of office ends. At the same time, in order to ensure the successful accomplishment of the two major national tasks of a peaceful change of government and the Seoul Olympics, I declare the withholding of counterproductive debate on constitutional change which would only split public opinion and waste national energies.

This decision is based on the conclusion that it is realistically the best way to break through the current impasse and to attain national goals. I earnestly solicit wholehearted public support and trust in my decision.

I am confident that we will find the best way to promote the long-term interests of the nation, if we deliberate the constitutional amendment issue over a sufficient length of time after we have accomplished the other two major national tasks. In accordance with the decision I have announced today, I will expeditiously carry out the political agenda necessary to effect the scheduled peaceful transition of power. I will do my best to guarantee that by virtue of fair election administration, the elections of a presidential electoral college and presidential elections will be implemented within this year in a climate conducive to free competition. The DJP presidential candidate will be chosen at an early date from among persons deserving public support at a DJP national convention in accordance with the democratic procedures prescribed by the party charter.

My fellow countrymen, a peaceful transfer of power cannot be achieved only through the departure of the chief executive from office at the end of the prescribed tenure. We must fully realize that the true significance of a peaceful change of government can be realized only when the reins of power change hands with the active participation of all politicians, in and out of power, and the general public. When you consider the fact that in the whole world, there are only about 20 countries that practice democracy properly, changing their governments peacefully by vote from time to time, then you can see that the simple fact of my departure from office in accordance with the Constitution will mark an epochal milestone in our democratic development.

I want to emphasize again that the true meaning of my decision lies in my commitment to prevent a debacle so that I will be able to honorably retire pursuant to normal constitutional procedures. If some segments of society continue to be engrossed in futile factional strife over the constitutional issue, and to attempt to create social chaos through illegal activities and violence, thereby destabilizing the life of the nation, I make it clear that I will resolutely deal with them by exercising all the powers vested by the Constitution in the office of the President in order to protect the livelihood of the people and maintain public order.

As I have repeatedly stressed in the past, we now stand at a crucial crossroads, one branch leading to a new glorious era of democracy, advancement and unification and the other toward retreat and a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, backwardness and poverty. We must not waste this important period when we must decide the destiny of the nation by continuing to be absorbed in counterproductive conflict, confrontation and antagonism. To do so would deepen our internal schisms and dissipate national resources, thereby endangering the very existence and survival of the nation. Such a worry is further intensified by the increasingly messy international situation caused by the shifting patterns of the conflicting interests of the big powers surrounding the Korean peninsula.

In particular, the North Korean Communist regime, which has been constantly threatening our national security for the past 4 decades, is taking the mistaken view that the tribulations attendant on a change of government in the south are affording them a decisive opportunity to attain their goal of communizing the entire peninsula. Moreover, they are making all sorts of attempts to scuttle the Seoul Olympics out of jealousy over the bright prospects for its success.

What could political instability and social confusion bring us in this crucial period? The answer is nothing but a threat to the basis for self-reliant growth which we have built up through hard work for so many years. In view especially of the fierce trade war currently raging in the international community, it will be impossible to boost our exports and capital investment, if our society is plagued by anxiety and confusion. The only logical consequences will be rekindled inflation, unemployment, recession, poverty and stagnation. This will only restart the vicious cycle of economic decline leading to national crisis.

Even apart from that, radical leftists, who have gained influence in some segments of society, are maneuvering, are they not, to establish a Communist society through violence, illegal actions and agitation under a false banner of democratization, even though they totally reject liberal democracy. I will sternly deal with violent leftists intent on overthrowing the liberal democratic systems and will rigorously restore social discipline, which tends to become lax in any transition period, so that the national foundation will be further consolidated.

Fellow citizens, now that we are undergoing a major historic transitional period, I believe that as the president of the republic, I have so many things to do during the remainder of my term. I must keep my eyes focused not only on the current situation, but also on the long-range future of the country, including its political dimension. Because the political legacy thrust upon me was so onerous and depressing, my honest desire is to leave behind me the seeds of much healthier traditions so that my fellow citizens will be able to progress forward even more smoothly, no matter who may succeed me as the chief executive. It is because of my belief that I must not hand down the antiquated political legacy I inherited that I am determined to abide by the single-term presidency clause of the Constitution and to achieve a peaceful transition of power.

With the conviction that politics must be developed in step with the growth and advancement of all of Korean society, I will even more courageously press ahead, during the remainder of my tenure, with measures to broaden the basis for democratic progress and enhance social stability and national harmony.

As part of such efforts, I plan to progressively put into force a system of local autonomy designed to expand public participation in the political process. If this issue is expeditiously resolved and local autonomy is begun during my remaining tenure, yet another solid cornerstone for democratic development will have been laid.

Another point I wish to make in this connection is that there must be steady renewal in political life in keeping with the changing times and the continuing social development. We must not entrust the future of our advancing nation to the hands of superannuated politicians from a bygone era. In this sense, I believe that political parties must urgently strive to accept and nurture a new generation of untainted and competent politicians who will be capable of leading the country in this transitional period.

If our politics are to develop in step with the current of the times, not only politicians, but all other citizens will have to devote themselves even more enthusiastically to improving the political climate through attitudinal reform.

We have now reached a point where we must completely free ourselves from the fetters of the vicious circle left behind by the Republic's tortuous 40-year political history. We must get rid as quickly as possible of the strange political climate in which distrust and hostility prevail between rival political groups, politicians are afraid of dialogue and compromise and the backwardness of extremist struggles persist, wasting national energies through violence and demagoguery. Now that the evil vestiges of protracted one-man rule are being liquidated, the guiding principles for all of us, but especially for politicians in this transition period, must be trust, mutual concession, patience, and self-restraint.

Needless to reiterate, the objective of politics is to promote the national interests and public welfare. We must now begin more serious efforts to evolve a political tradition in which much more importance is attached to competition between policies designed to meet the diverse desires and needs of the public and in which politicians tackle major national issues from a suprapartisan standpoint in the interests of the people and national prosperity. We must develop a mature political modus operandi in which politicians will not cause public anxiety and worry through greedy obsession with personal gains, but will be able to sacrifice personal interests and thus inspire public trust and hope.

I hope that all politicians will open-mindedly accept my decision to put constitutional change on hold and will actively participate in planning and building a new future for politics on that basis. At the same time, I ask all my fellow citizens to discharge your civic responsibilities as democratic citizens and take the lead in ensuring national progress under conditions of stability. If and when all such efforts are combined to perpetuate democratic development, I am confident that the economic and social progress that has been set in motion on the strength of your participation and cooperation will be further accelerated, leading to greater national development.

Indeed, if the general public, the government and all politicians work in concert to smoothly carry out a peaceful transition of power and to successfully stage the Seoul Olympics, we will be freed from the fear of war and also from the yoke of underdevelopment, and will enter, with soaring hopes, a nineties of peace and prosperity. In that sense, the coming 2 to 3 years will afford an ideal opportunity for us to join the ranks of the advanced nations. How can we, who have already demonstrated great inner resources and an infinite national potential in the face of even greater difficulties, fail to seize this precious opportunity?

My fellow countrymen, it is only about 10 months before I leave Chongwadae (the presidential office and residence), ridding myself of the heavy responsibility of office. I think it will be a great honor to fulfill my earlier promise to you thanks to your enthusiastic involvement and cooperation. I wish to ask for your unwavering support and encouragement to the end.

I have no other personal political ambition than to conclude my momentous tenure with your blessings. My modest hope then is to enjoy a happy life as a humble citizen of a rising country, sharing joys and sufferings with all of you. Believing that the day my personal wishes are fulfilled, by virtue of your support, will see the dawn of democracy in Korea, I once again earnestly solicit your continued cooperation.

I am confident that the mature wisdom of my fellow countrymen who are living in this era of great challenges will provide fertile soil for democracy to bloom in this land. The proud success story of Korea's advance into the forefront of development and achievement of the long-standing goal of national unification will thus be written.

I wish all of you and your families good health and happiness as we greet this balmy spring. Thank you.

UN HELP SOUGHT IN REOPENING TALKS WITH NORTH

SK120156 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] United Nations (Yonhap) -- South Korea Friday asked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to help resume suspended dialogue with north Korea.

The south Korean message was delivered by Amb. Pak Kun, representative of the south Korean observer mission to the United Nations, when he met with Perez de Cuellar.

Pak said it is encouraging that north Korea is willing to hold prime ministers' talks.

But he said it is regrettable that north Korea insists on only political and military talks at the prime ministerial level without taking steps to build mutual trust.

Maintaining that new tensions have been created by the north Korean construction of a dam near the Demilitarized Zone, he said south and north Korea cannot remove their mutual distrust without solving the problem at a Seoul-proposed meeting on water resources.

He also said south and north Korea should reopen Red Cross and economic talks, suspended early last year, as well as water resource talks before a prime ministers' meeting.

600 POLICE SEAL OFF KIM TAE-CHUNG'S HOUSE

SK110154 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP) -- The police Friday evening sealed off the house of dissident leader Kim Tae-chung, barring politicians to contact him and practically foreclosing his political activities.

The police deployed about 600 policemen to seal off the area surrounding Kim's home, but his family members, brothers, housemaids and driver, as well as Korean and foreign reporters were allowed free access to Kim's house.

Kim, co-chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, is still under a suspended 20-year prison term for a sedition conviction and is legally barred from engaging in political activities.

Mapo Police Station Chief Kim Sang-tae visited Kim's home in western Seoul on Friday afternoon and warned him that the police will block him even "halfway" from attending meetings of the council and other dissident groups.

Kim told him that people serving suspended prison terms cannot engage in political activities and that police will never permit him to make contacts with politicians or political groups.

This is the first time police have sealed off Kim's home when no political gathering was scheduled. He has been under house custody since Wednesday, when he and Kim Yong-sam, adviser to the main opposition party, were scheduled to announce their decision to break away from the party in a joint press conference.

The "two Kims" control the two major factions of the New Korea Democratic Party with the support of more than 70 lawmakers from the 90-seat party, they began work Thursday on plans to found a new party.

The opposition party has been embroiled in an internal feud over the party's position on the issues of constitutional revision and party leadership.

A ruling party source attributed Friday's police action to the fact that Kim has continued to engage in political activities, even founding a new party, and has ignored the government's advice that he exercise self-discipline.

'SOME' SOVIET TROOPS 'HAVE STARTED TO RETURN HOME'

OW111503 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1408 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 Apr (MONTSAME) -- According to the agreement between the Governments of the USSR and the MPR, as it has been announced previously, some of the Soviet troops that were temporarily stationed on MPR territory have started to return home. Friendly meetings and soirees were held in the Soviet military units [word indistinct]. Participating in these were T. Namsray, member of the MPR Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the MPRP Politburo and chairman of the Mongolian-Soviet Friendship Association; T. Lubsangombo, candidate member of the Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers; P. Damdin, secretary of the MPRP Central Committee; and other comrades. Artists of the Mongolian People's Army song and dance ensemble as well as those of other artistic collectives performed in the Soviet military units.

Representatives of the Soviet soldiers returning home were warmly received in the Mongolian capital. They laid wreaths at V.I. Lenin memorial, the D. Sukhe-Bator and H. Choybalsan tombs and the memorial to Soviet soldiers on Dzaysan Mountain. They also acquainted themselves with the capital's famous places, and visited the state academic opera and ballet theater and central museums. The Mongolian people will always pay tribute [words indistinct] gratitude for performing their international duty.

AMITY GROUP PLANS TO MARK MPR-USSR ANNIVERSARY

OW091401 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1345 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 8 Apr (MONTSAME) -- An international meeting, "Great October and the Socialist World"; a Mongolian-Soviet meeting on problems of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region; days of the MPR in the Ukrainian SSR: days of the USSR in the MPR on the example of the achievements of Soviet Moldavia -- These and many other political and mass cultural activities are planned this year by the Mongolian-Soviet Friendship Association (MSFA).

This year is a significant one for the MSFA. The 40th anniversary of its foundation on 22 May 1947 will be marked; and the eighth congress of this organization, the largest public organization, which enjoys national prestige, will be held.

D. Tsogdzolmaa, responsible secretary of the MSFA Central Council, writes in UNEN that active promotion of convergence and consolidation of the MPR and the USSR is at the center of the MSFA's activities.

To implement this main task of strengthening and deepening friendship of the Mongolian and Soviet peoples, the Association -- the national pride of the MPR working people and a great creative force -- employs the most diversified forms of work. The MSFA widely acquaints the Mongolian public with the successes of the fraternal Soviet people in their implementation of the historical decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress on the acceleration of social and economic development and the restructuring of all spheres of public life in the Soviet Union. The MSFA, together with the Soviet-Mongolian Friendship Society, has announced a socialist competition in the year of the 70th anniversary of Great October under the motto: "We learn from our Soviet comrades."

This form of work is fruitful: Over 40,000 people mastered a new trade or raised qualifications in the past 3 years under the guidance of Soviet specialists.

UNEN MARKS CSSR AMITY TREATY ANNIVERSARY

OW090549 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 8 Apr (MONTSAME) — Thirty years have elapsed since the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the MPR and the CSSR, which facilitated the opportunities for the development and broadening of relations between the two countries in the areas of social life, was signed. In connection with this, UNEN, the party-state newspaper, emphasizes that the fraternal friendship and cooperation between the MPRP and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPCZ), and between the MPR and the CSSR is developing progressively, from year to year, for the benefit of our peoples and in the interests of the socialist community.

A great deal of experience in cooperation has been accumulated in the area of economy, science, technology, the leather-footwear industry, geology, and mining — the main arena for our economic cooperation. A whole series of projects have been built in the MPR with the technical and economic help of Czechoslovakia. In these enterprises and projects, Czechoslovak specialists are making their contribution to the training of national cadres. In particular, Nongolczlechoslovakmetall produces fluorite and tin concentrates. The bilateral trade turnover has grown more than tenfold in the past 30 years.

It has been noted that an important event in the relationship between the two countries was the meeting of comrades Jambyn Batmonh and Gustav Husak in Prague last year. The leaders of our two parties and countries noted the successful development of Mongolian-Czech relations in the areas of politics, economy, science, technology, culture, and in other fields. They expressed unity of views on fundamental problems of international life, and complete support for the peace-loving proposals and initiatives of the Soviet Union. Agreement in MPR and CSSR foreign policies, their close interaction with the Soviet Union, and with other countries of the socialist community, makes for specific contribution in the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and Europe, and in the universal struggle for a nuclear-free world, UNEN writes.

MONTSAME EXAMINES WEST'S ANTI-SOVIET 'SPY MANIA'

OW100727 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1355 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Apr (MONTSAME) — A MONTSAME commentator writes: Anti-Soviet outbreaks of spy mania are hardly news. They have become so sickeningly frequent that experienced international watchers find no difficulty in predicting them. [Words indistinct] of secret services are prepared to do anything to raise themselves in the eyes of the public in their own countries. Since the Western secret services have long acquired an odious reputation, they have to justify their daily bread — with butter, I might add — by all means, fair and foul, including coarse slander.

Spy mania is always funny, but it is doubly funny in the case of the French insinuation relating to "Soviet interest" in the Ariane missiles. The Soviet Union simply has no reason to display even a vestige of interest in this infantile missile technology, which, in fact, happens to belong to them. When the French intelligence service, which has been "reorganized," in the words of its bosses, forgot — perhaps its "reorganized" memory failed it — that a French cosmonaut had flown, and is presently preparing for a further flight, in a Soviet spaceship, then it is funnier still.

At that time, the world did not hear complaints from the Soviet side about interest displayed in its leading space-rocket technology.

The West has long maintained a stereotyped thinking, insisting that achievements in science and technology can only be found in the West. This form of fallacious thinking completely dismisses the latest achievements of Soviet scientists. Very recently, Soviet scientists achieved a decisive breakthrough in the areas of the physics of superconductivity, which has a fundamentally important meaning for the future of technology; they have achieved great success on the road to controlled thermonuclear synthesis; they have discovered the effect of superconductivity at normal temperatures, and have set records with the Tokomak installation. The achievements of Soviet science serve the interests of all mankind.

COMMENTATOR HAILS HONECKER-STROUGAL PROPOSAL

OW101203 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1347 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Apr (MONTSAME) -- A MONTSAME commentator writes: The proposals contained in the message of E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, and L. Strougal, premier of the CSSR, addressed to H. Kohl, FRG federal chancellor, to begin talks on the formation of a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe are a realistic step by fraternal socialist states toward a positive solution of questions concerning the complete elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

The special significance of the GDR and the CSSR proposals is that they provide for specific ways to realize the constructive Soviet initiatives on concluding a separate Soviet-American agreement for the elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe. Those initiatives are contained in the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on 28 February of this year. The formation of a nuclear free 150 kilometer wide corridor on both sides of the dividing line separating the two military-political unions, would be conducive to the withdrawal of all weapons from the territories of the FRG, the GDR, and the CSSR. Moreover, the issues does not center on lowering the radius of action of the intermediate-range missiles in Europe or their transfer to sea basing -- as the U.S. Administration wishes -- but on completely eliminating these weapons systems from the European theater of operations. The proposals made by the GDR and the CSSR provide not only for specific steps for the elimination of nuclear weapons within the boundaries of these three central European states, but also pursue the broader goal of expanding the corridor up to the creation in central Europe of a zone free of nuclear weapons. These practical steps, which are subject to verification, would, in the final analysis, lead to the strengthening of confidence and security between the states of the region and to the weakening of confrontation in the world.

Undoubtedly, realizing the socialist states proposal on intermediate-range missiles in Europe would facilitate the practical solution of questions relating to attaining nuclear-free zones, in various parts of Asia and the Pacific Ocean. [Words indistinct] considers that the leaders of the GDR and the CSSR are governed by thoughts of finding mutually acceptable ways to solve all existing disputed contemporary problems exclusively through peaceful means and on there bases solving the problems common to all mankind.

HENG SAMRIN BUDDHIST NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO NATION

BK130244 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0049 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Buddhist New Year message by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, to cadres, male and female combatants, and all compatriots -- live or recorded]

[Text] Beloved comrades, cadres, male and female combatants, and compatriots: On the occasion of this traditional new year, the Year of the Rabbit, on behalf of the party Central Committee, the Council of State, Council of Ministers, and the KUFNCD National Council, I would like to extend warmest and most cordial regards to you and praise all the brilliant victories won through the great efforts to surmount all obstacles by cadres, soldiers, and compatriots in all fields in 1986 and the beginning of 1987.

The Year of the Tiger has passed with victories for us in many fields. The Year of the Rabbit -- the year of intelligence -- has arrived. We will strive more vigorously in order to expand our position of strength and victory and win more victories.

On this new year, I would like to express sentiments of respect and gratitude to all comrades, wounded and disabled combatants, families of fallen, wounded, and disabled combatants, families of soldiers and workers with national defense duties who had appropriately sacrificed their lives for the fatherland, country, and people. At the same time, I would like to express profound gratitude to the Vietnamese army volunteers and the comrades experts from Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and other fraternal countries for their sincere, timely, and effective assistance. I would like to extend best wishes to all. May you score more achievements in this new year. I would like to extend best regards and new year greetings to the fraternal Cambodian residents abroad.

Although they have suffered serious defeats and become very weak, with the support and assistance of the international reactionary forces, our enemies are stubbornly carrying on activities against our revolution and the happy life of our people. They have sought every means and resorted to psychological warfare schemes in an attempt to undermine our national unity and internationalist solidarity, thus weakening our revolutionary strength.

Cadres, male and female combatants, and all compatriots: In this new year you should enhance national unity among workers, peasants, and all ethnic nationalities, enhance internationalist solidarity, strive to implement well the resolution of the Fifth National Congress of the KPRP, actively contribute to implementing the tasks of national defense and construction, heighten revolutionary vigilance, be intelligent and capable in detecting all maneuvers of the enemy, be skillful in searching out and destroying the enemy, thus weakening him and plunging him toward total doom.

We are ready and joyfully waiting to welcome those brothers and sisters who have been misled by the enemy, become repentant and desire to return to their families, people, and the revolution. All cadres and party members should enhance their sense of responsibility toward the livelihood of the people. All activities should be shifted to the grassroots. Let us make an all-out effort in serving the people and combatants. We must always enhance solidarity with Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union; fraternal socialist countries; and all progressive forces in the world in the struggle for independence, happiness of the people, the bond of solidarity of the three Indochinese countries, and for peace and revolution in the world. May the new year bring new strength and new victories.

PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS FOR KHMER NEW YEAR

Celebration Directive Issued

BK101237 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1107 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 10 -- The Kampuchean Council of Ministers has issued a directive on celebration of Khmer New Year "Chol Chhnam Thmei" (April 13), saying that diversified activities would be organized in conformity with national, progressive and revolutionary characters.

Get-togethers and meetings, the directive added, will be held to mark the April 17 victories over the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen and welcome the success of the party and states leniency policy regarding the misled people; and visits to the hospitalized Kampuchean and Vietnamese combatants and the Vietnamese volunteer army units in Kampuchea and to families of fallen combatants will be made, etc.

According to the directive, ceremonies will be organized at the monument for the dead and the monument to the Vietnamese internationalist combatants and other public places, to commemorate those who were slaughtered by the Pol Pot genocidal clique.

Combatants, Units Visited

BK120610 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0423 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 12 -- On the occasion of the Khmer new year (Chol Chhnam Thmei), delegations of various ministries, offices and mass organizations on Friday and Saturday called on war invalids, families of fallen combatants, Kampuchean and Vietnamese army units and hospitalized combatants in the city and Kandal Province.

A delegation of several ministries, led by Ros Chhun, candidate member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and general secretary of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, visited and presented gifts to war invalids and families of fallen combatants in Phnom Penh City and in the Kandal Province. A delegation of the Ministry of Education led by its deputy minister Hang Chuon called on cadres and combatants at the war invalids centre in Kien Svay District, Kandal Province.

Delegations of the National Assembly and the Kampuchea Federation of Trade Unions respectively led by Nu Beng, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and Heng Teav, vice president of the Kampuchea Federation of Trade Unions, called on wounded and sick arymen at various hospitals in the City of Phnom Penh.

SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEE DELEGATION DEPARTS

BK100955 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 10 Apr (SPK) -- The delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace led by Georgiy Kuznetsov [name as received] left Phnom Penh last Wednesday at the end of a week-long visit to Cambodia. During its visit, the delegation met with Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council, and Yit Kimseng, minister of health and chairman of the Cambodian Committee for the Defense of Peace. The delegation visited historical vestiges and picturesque sites and establishments in Phnom Penh and in Kandal and Takeo Provinces.

SPK REPORTS THAI VIOLATIONS ALONG BORDER AREA

BK111146 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1128 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 11 -- In two weeks ending on April 7, Thai gunners shelled from 300 to 3,000 artillery and mortar rounds a day on many Kampuchean border areas, including the Kampuchean-Thai-Lao border: intersection, Phnom Pchhor (Battambang), Hills 743, 753, 551, 321, and 1271.

Thai aircraft of L-19, F-55, and A-37 types 44 times made reconnaissance flights over, strafing and bombing of, various areas in the border provinces of Battambang, Pursat, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear from one to two kilometres inside Kampuchea.

Worthy of note was that in the morning of March 29 Thai aircraft on 15 occasions spread yellow rain agent on hills 743 and 753 the areas near the three countries border intersection.

Especially on March 20, Thailand's L-19, F-4 and A-37 aircraft nine times bombarded and fired rockets on Hills 416, 555 and 384.

On sea, Thai armed vessels on 87 occasions conducted espionage activities in Kampuchean waters from seven to 11 miles off Kaoh Kong and Kaoh Tang islands.

On land, many groups of Khmer reactionnaires sneaked back from their hideouts in Thailand into Kampuchea for sabotage activities. But, they were intercepted by Kampuchean armed forces, in coordination with Vietnamese army volunteers. Three hundred and seventy two were put out of action, 372 enemy troops and 206 assorted guns, two cases of DK-82 and 20,000 mines seized. [sentence as received]

IENG THIRITH MEETS JAPANESE MINISTRY OFFICIALS

BK120333 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] A DK delegation led by Mrs Ieng Thirith [chairman of DK Red Cross and CGDK Foreign Ministry secretary general] met with His Excellency Morata, Japanese deputy foreign minister, in Tokyo on 9 April.

Accompanying his excellency the deputy foreign minister were His Excellency (Sotaro Oshima), chief of the Southeast Asia 1 Section; (Masato Kitera), deputy chief of the Southeast Asia 1 Section; and (Sino Hara), expert on the Cambodian question at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

At the request of the deputy minister, Mrs Ieng Thirith talked about the current all-round -- military, political, and diplomatic -- situation in Cambodia and Cambodia's future outlook following a Vietnamese troop withdrawal. She ended her briefing by appealing to Japan and the rest of the international community to resolutely support the CGDK's 8-point proposal and continue putting vigorous diplomatic and economic pressure on Vietnam to bring it to the negotiating table with the CGDK to settle the Cambodian problem politically.

His Excellency Morata was pleased to learn about the new development of the Cambodian people's struggle, and affirmed that Japan will continue to support the 8-point peace proposal of the CGDK for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem through the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia to allow the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny.

The talks proceeded in a very friendly, cordial, and warm atmosphere.

It is to be noted that before and after meeting with Deputy Minister Morata, Mrs Ieng Thirith held long discussions with His Excellency (Tanino), deputy chief of the Asian Affairs Department, and other Japanese Foreign Ministry officials who sought to further understand and grasp the latest development in the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. All of this testifies to the Japanese Government's concern for peace in Cambodia and Southeast Asia, and shows the growth of friendship between Japan and Cambodia. Mrs Ieng Thirith headed a DK delegation to attend Cambodia Day in Tokyo, organized on every Cambodian traditional New Year by the Japanese Committee for the Coordination of the International Conference on Kampuchea.

Speaks at Tokyo Rally

BK121100 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] To mark the 1987 Cambodia Day, the Japanese Committee for Organizing the International Conference on Cambodia held a solemn meeting in Tokyo on 11 April under the prestigious chairmanship of His Excellency Haruo Okada, former vice president of the Japanese Diet. On that occasion, Ieng Thirith, president of the Democratic Kampuchean Red Cross, general secretary of the CGDK Foreign Ministry, and head of the delegation, gave a speech. Following are excerpts of the address.

After conveying to the meeting warmest congratulations from the CGDK's three leaders -- namely Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, DK president; Prime Minister His Excellency Son Sann, and DK Vice President in Charge of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Khieu Samphan -- Ieng Thirith said:

On the battlefield, our DK nationalist combatants can lose their lives at any moment. However, they are still full of vigor and energy to fight because they are encouraged by the vigorous support of the international community. The Cambodia Day in Tokyo is a lively symbol of this international support. Excellencies and friends, please accept the sincere and wholehearted thanks of the Cambodian people and the courageous and brave children of the DK resistance forces. In the past 6 months of the 1986-87 ninth dry season, which is about to end, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been completely defeated in their attempt to achieve their three goals of sealing off the border, wiping out the resistance forces inside Cambodia, and building an effective puppet army to serve the Vietnamese. One of the main reasons for this defeat is the lively implementation and initiative of our National Army in waging our guerrilla struggle. Our nationalist combatants have done their best to attack and dismantle Vietnamese administrative networks in villages, rural areas, in the plains, around major provincial towns, and around Phnom Penh city. In this way, they have freed the people in the villages from the Vietnamese enemy aggressors' yoke and cut off the primary sources of human resources and foodstuffs to the Vietnamese enemy in villages. After describing the loss of initiative by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, who were forced to deploy their forces to resist us causing them to be caught more easily in the DK National Army's guerrilla web, the speaker said:

In sum, Cambodian soldiers and administrative officials in villages and communes throughout the country have cooperated with us. Patriotic Cambodian soldiers and the people have taken part in every major attack on big towns. Within the ranks of the Vietnamese aggressor army, desertion is spreading. Recently, on 12 February in Koh Kong in southern Cambodia, up to 500 Vietnamese soldiers deserted in succession. Our military victories have also had a good influence on the political front. These victories have strengthened our people's belief in the final victory over the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and further solidified the tripartite solidarity because the three sides more and more clearly realize that only national unity can defeat the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and ensure Cambodia's independence and the survival of the Cambodian race.

On the diplomatic front, Hanoi's room for diplomatic maneuvers is getting narrower. The Vietnamese can no longer fool the world. They have sustained severe losses in their war of aggression in Cambodia which has gone on for 8 years and is still nowhere near its goal. This has split the Hanoi Vietnamese leaders.

The speaker went on: Despite these difficulties, the Hanoi leaders still refuse to change their policy in Cambodia. They have prepared for decades to take control of the Indochinese Federation which was set up in 1930, over half a century ago, and so they will not easily let Cambodia go. They are striving to annex Cambodia using both military and diplomatic means.

In a word, the old and new maneuvers of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors are aimed at duping the world into recognizing Vietnam's act of aggression in Cambodia as a fait accompli thereby discouraging the world, including Japan, from assisting the Cambodian people's just cause to struggle for national liberation and safeguarding the Cambodian race. Unfortunately, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors' plan to expand and annex Cambodia has been blessed by the Soviet Union because it coincides with the Soviet strategy to expand and control Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the sea lanes, including the Strait of Malacca. To achieve this strategy, the Soviet Union uses the naval bases at Danang and Cam Ranh as stepping stones.

After reaffirming the CGDK's goodwill to resolve the Cambodian issue quickly -- as testified by the 8-point peace proposal and the appeal to Vietnam and the Soviet Union dated 18 February 1987 -- the speaker said:

The Cambodian people and the DK resistance forces under the CGDK's leadership once again appeal to all esteemed Japanese friends present at the meeting to stir Japanese opinion and international opinion into supporting the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. Only by adhering to this 8-point peace proposal can the Cambodian problem be quickly resolved politically through the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Then, an independent, united, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia with a parliamentary regime will emerge to contribute to creating a balance of forces, which is a firm guarantee for peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region for the benefit of people the world over.

The head of our DK delegation ended her speech by expressing most profound gratitude and Cambodian new year wishes to the Japanese personalities, masses, and friends who took part in the meeting. Ieng Thirith's speech was interrupted many times by loud applause.

BRIEFS

YOUTH GROUP TO MOSCOW -- Phnom Penh, 10 Apr (SKP) -- A delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Youth Union led by its First Secretary Sam Sundoeun, member of the KPRP Central Committee, left for Moscow yesterday. It will attend the 20th Congress of the Leninist Communist Youth Union (KOMSOMOL) which will take place in the Soviet capital from 15 to 18 April. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1136 GMT 10 Apr 87 BK]

MPR DELEGATION VISITS -- Phnom Penh, 10 Apr (SPK) -- A delegation of the MPRP Central Committee Foreign Relations Commission, led by Commission Vice Chairman Hasbasaryn Bekhbat, arrived in Phnom Penh yesterday for a visit to Cambodia. It was greeted on its arrival by Prach Sun, vice chairman of the KPRP Central Committee Foreign Relations Commission. The delegation will get down to exchanges of views with its Cambodian counterpart and will meet with Men Sam-an, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Organization Commission of the KPRP Central Committee. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1135 GMT 10 Apr 87 BK]

LEADERS ATTEND KIM IL-SONG BIRTHDAY RECEPTION

BK111007 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Vientiane, April 11 (KPL) -- Kim Sang-chun, ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Lao PDR, yesterday evening offered here a reception to mark the 75th birthday of Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea CC and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Present at the reception among others were Sali Vongkhamhao, Politburo member and secretary of the LPRP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, Khamphai Boupha, member of the LPRP CC, first deputy-minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR.

Diplomatic envoys of socialist countries here organized on April 8 a film night on Kim Il-song's life and activities.

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN RECEIVES INDONESIAN ENVOY

BK101044 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Vientiane, April 10 (KPL) -- The new Indonesian ambassador, Bambang Sumantri, yesterday called on Kayson Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR, after his presentation of credentials to Lao Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit.

K. Phomvihan had a friendly talk with the new Indonesian ambassador. The discussion centered on bilateral ties aiming at consolidating the two countries relations for the benefits of peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

He congratulated the ambassador and wished him success in his mission here.

CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 11 APR

BK130314 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] In response to an invitation of the LPDR Foreign Ministry, Giraldo Mazola, vice foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba, arrived in Vientiane at noon on 11 April for a friendly visit to the LPDR.

On hand to welcome the delegation at the airport were Deputy Foreign Minister Soulivong Phasitthidet and some cadres concerned. Mario Vazquez Garcia, Cuban ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also at the airport.

BURMESE VISIT REVIEWED, BILATERAL ISSUES STRESSED

Prem Assesses Relations

BK101102 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon hosted a dinner reception for Burmese Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha and his delegation at Government House at 1930 yesterday. The occasion was marked by an atmosphere of friendship. Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon proposed a toast to the Burmese president, and the Burmese prime minister offered a toast to their majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. Prime Minister Gen Prem then delivered the following speech.

[Begin recording] Your excellency the prime minister, gentlemen: On behalf of His Majesty's government and the people of Thailand, I am happy to have the honor of welcoming your excellency the prime minister and your delegation today. Your visit to Thailand showed that our two countries are enjoying closer relations, and we are building stronger relations and broader cooperation between us. The Burmese Government has accorded kind hospitality to the Thai representatives who visited Burma lately, and I would like to thank them on this occasion. The Burmese Government accorded a warmest and grand welcome when Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon visited the country in March last year. Her visit was an important milestone in strengthening relations between our two countries. After her visit to your beautiful country, she wrote a book about her visit and the book received a big welcome by the Thai people. As for myself, I always remember with appreciation the warm welcome given to me by your excellency, the government, and people of Burma when I paid a visit there 7 years ago.

Your excellency the prime minister: During my last visit to Rangoon, I emphasized the basic factors in our bilateral relations. Our country holds that Burma's stability and economic welfare are important for Thailand's stability itself. We share a long common border both on land and sea, and this makes it impossible for our two countries to speak separately about their stability. The strength of one country will contribute to stability of another. Thailand therefore thinks that it is very important for our two countries to help each other achieve mutual stability. I would like to stress here that the basic factors I mentioned concerning our relations will continue to be a major principle in the Thai Government's foreign policy. Thailand realizes, as well as Burma, that national stability and economic development must go hand in hand. We can never achieve stability without adequate welfare for our people. In this connection, we have made efforts in development of natural resources and industries in order to achieve better welfare conditions for our people. Thailand realized that its economic development depends on the expansion of its trade and economic relations with other countries. Thailand's development will again be made easier with a favorable atmosphere on the global scene.

I would like to say that Thailand is ready to cooperate and support our Burmese friends no matter which methods or which forms of development they have chosen. This will contribute to our mutual interests both in the framework of bilateral relations and our regional situation. The Thai Government and people would be very happy if we can contribute to the development of Burma in one way or another.

Your excellency the prime minister: There still is room for progress and development in our Southeast Asian region. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] was founded about two decades ago with the purpose of achieving peace and cooperation among members. We are proud that ASEAN has been playing an important role in building stability and achieving welfare for the region.

Yet, there are still problems in this region detrimental to regional stability. They come from the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia which constitutes a threat to the stability and economic and social development of countries not only in the region but elsewhere. In order to settle the problem, we must deal with it at the root. That means, we must achieve the withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia and achieve independence, neutrality, nonalignment, and the right to self-determination for Cambodia. I realize this is something difficult to hope for, yet Thailand and ASEAN will continue to work for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem. We look to our friends for support. I believe that all countries in this region should be able to contribute to the settlement of the problem and achieve peace and progress for the region. I believe that Burma which is a free, independent, and nonaligned country can play a significant role in this matter.

Your excellency the prime minister: In today's official consultations, we reached considerable agreement. We discussed several major issues of mutual interests for our countries. Our successful discussion, I hope, will result in more exchanges of visits and consultations between our two countries leading to stronger bilateral relations. Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the health and success of the Burmese prime minister, and for friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples. [end recording]

The Burmese prime minister in turn gave a speech. He said in part: [Begin recording in Burmese, fading into Thai paraphrase] The Burmese prime minister said that he is very happy for his visit to Thailand which enables him to hold talks with Thai leaders on bilateral relations and other problems of mutual interest. He said this is the opportunity for him to renew old friendships as well as to know new friends among Thai leaders. He sincerely hopes that this visit will help strengthen the friendly relations existing between Thailand and Burma. [end recording]

Sitthi on Burma, Malaysia

BK111205 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila says that the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and Thailand have achieved better understanding. Thailand made known to Burma that its security depends upon Burma's security. The foreign minister spoke to newsmen at the Air Force Command Airport this morning after seeing off Burmese Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha.

[Begin Sitthi recording] The visit has been beneficial for both countries. We showed to Burma that we are sincere. The prime minister said during his banquet speech that Thailand's security depends upon Burma's security. This gave Burma a feeling of relief and happiness. The visit has enhanced the relationship between the two countries and their leaders. Burma attached importance to this matter and is careful about what it says. The speech by its leader is therefore very important. Last night, Princess Sirinthon hosted a reception for the Burmese guests. This made them very happy. The visit will benefit both countries, and we will continue to cooperate with each other. [end recording]

Concerning the arrest of Thai fishing trawlers by Malaysia, the foreign minister said: [Begin Sitthi recording] I have received a letter from the Malaysian foreign minister. He said that Malaysia is checking all of our charges. He said that all problems are likely to be settled under the agreement reached earlier between him and me, that is, the setting up of a joint fishing venture, and of a joint commission to settle bilateral disputes. What I am asking now is that you refrain from heavily criticizing Malaysia through the mass media. Malaysia has said it is investigating the matter fairly. Malaysia itself will not tolerate it if it is proved that its men committed such cruel acts against the Thai people.

[Unidentified newsman] How long will it take Malaysia to conduct the investigation?

[Sitthi] Malaysia has said it will try to finish the investigation as early as possible. I received a radio message yesterday. Malaysia admitted that it had been intercepting Thai fishermen for several days. On the fishermen issue, I have already granted an interview. We need a long-term plan to solve the problem, that is, to establish a joint fishing venture. We will send a delegation from the Fisheries Department and the Foreign Ministry for talks with Malaysia on this matter.

[Unidentified newsman] What really happened when our fishermen were intercepted? Did they round up our men inside our boundary?

[Sitthi] Please do not jump to conclusions easily. Each side is accusing the other now. It is difficult to know in whose boundary a certain area in the sea is. Malaysia said it intercepted our fishermen. We questioned them about the spot of the interception, and asked our fishermen about it. They said they are not capable of reading it. This is complicated. We are close neighbors, and we should use restraint and control ourselves pending negotiations. If we quarrel with each other, it will drag on and our plan for a joint fishing venture will never come true. I believe that in a few months we will be able to reach agreement on a policy for the joint fishing venture with Malaysia, as well as with Burma, and Indonesia. We have at present only about a thousand fishing trawlers bigger than 100 tons. Indonesia and India offered to cooperate with us. We already have a joint venture with Bangladesh. We are negotiating with the countries in the South Pacific. We can enter into joint fishing ventures with many countries. What we need are big fishing trawlers. Therefore, I wonder why the about 30,000 to 40,000 small fishing boats that we have do not pool their capital and operate as a big fleet. We can catch fish, can it, and send it to the United States for labelling and marketing there. This is what we should do. [end recording]

Sitthi on Border Rivers

BK110922 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 11 Apr 87 p 32

[Text] Thailand and Burma have agreed to share the use of two rivers after settling long-disputed demarcation lines, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said this morning.

Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi made the disclosure to reporters at Don Muang Airport where he was seeing off Burmese Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha who continued to Singapore at the end of his visit here. ACM Sitthi said a satisfactory agreement was reached on the demarcation lines and use of the Sai and Ruak rivers in the North.

A joint technical team will soon explore the two rivers and a budget will be arranged to work out plans for their development, he added. Burma considered the issue important and urgent and the agreement would benefit both countries, he said.

The discussions with the Burmese Prime Minister also covered plans for a joint fishery venture, to increase more trade and co-operation in narcotics suppression, he added.

The Burmese Prime Minister was in Thailand on a goodwill visit to exchange views on bilateral matters and talks on other topics of mutual interest are expected in future, he said.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon pointed out in a speech addressed to the Burmese prime minister that the security of Thailand was the security of Burma, ACM pointed out. This remark, he added, was welcomed by the Burmese Prime Minister.

Burmese Delegation Departs**BK110719 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Apr 87**

[Text] At 0845 today at the Air Force Command Airport, Burmese Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha and his delegation left Bangkok by a plane of the Thai Airways International at the end of his official visit to Thailand from 9 to 11 April as guest of the Thai Government. On the occasion, Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon, Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Sonthi Bunyachai, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan, and a large number of senior government officials and diplomatic corps saw the Burmese Prime Minister off at the airport. The Burmese Prime Minister and his delegation will visit Singapore.

Burma To Release 151 Thai Fishermen**BK111018 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Apr 87**

[Text] Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, Somphan Kokilanon, reported yesterday that, in conformity with the Thai Government's stated foreign policy on protecting the interests of Thai nationals in foreign countries and help for Thai people having problems abroad, Deputy Foreign Minister Sub-Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan, when he led a Thai delegation for the Thai-Burmese Border Committee meeting in Burma last January, discussed with Burmese leaders the situation of Thai people detained in Burmese prisons.

As a result, on 7 April the Burmese deputy minister for home affairs invited the Thai charge d'affaires in Rangoon for a meeting and informed the latter about the decision of the Burmese Government to suspend the jail terms of 151 Thai prisoners, including 1 woman. Most of the detainees are Thai fishermen arrested for illegally entering Burma. The 151 Thai detainees have already served half of their terms. The Burmese Government is now ready for their release and return to Thailand.

The Burmese Government stated that the decision was made because of the much improved relations between the two countries, and the visit to Thailand by the Burmese prime minister. The release of the Thai detainees is also a gesture of friendship to the Thai Government and people.

PREM RECEIVES THATCHER LETTER ON CAMBODIA**BK110153 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 87 p 1**

[Text] Discussions on the Kampuchean conflict between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has produced "the most promising sign" so far of a possible settlement of the eight-year-old problem, Government Spokesman Michai Wirawaithaya said yesterday.

The spokesman said Premier Prem Tinsulanon was informed of the result of the talks in a personal message from Thatcher. The message was handed to Prem by British Ambassador to Thailand Derek Tonkin who called on him at the Government House yesterday morning.

"Gen Prem views this as the most promising sign so far in the search for a political solution to the Kampuchean problem," he said.

The premier, he said, is more hopeful than ever, but acknowledged that a lot of difficulties remain to be solved before there could be a peaceful solution to the Kampuchean conflict.

Michai said Prem also expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for Thatcher's help and was "very happy with the news".

The spokesman, however, refused to divulge the contents of Thatcher's message and details of talks between Prem and Tonkin during the 45-minute meeting. Other officials attending the meeting included PM's Secretary General Prasong Sunsiri and PM's aide Maj Gen Surayut Chulanon.

Prem, who paid an unofficial visit to London early last month, asked Thatcher to raise the Kampuchean conflict with Gorbachev during her Moscow visit between March 28-April 1.

"And she did discuss the issue and we feel encouraged by the response," Michai said.

In a news release, Michai, however, quoted Thatcher as saying in the message that she believed Moscow would from now on "help restore peace in war-torn Kampuchea and push for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The British Embassy in Bangkok, contacted by THE NATION refused to comment on Michai's statement.

The Soviet Union has provided financial and military aid to Vietnam which invaded Kampuchea in 1978 and installed the pro-Hanoi Heng Samrin regime there after overthrowing the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge forces.

An estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops remain in Kampuchea fighting with a three-part Kampuchean nationalist coalition that also includes the Khmer Rouge.

EDITORIAL ON CAMBODIAN ISSUE, SINO-SOVIET TALKS

BK130245 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Signs But No Real Push To Solve Khmer Issue"]

[Text] There have been bits and pieces of news that point to some positive solution to the Kampuchean conflict but nothing concrete has emerged. The latest is British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher taking up the issue with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, at the urging of Prim Minister Prem Tinsulanon, and her encouraging letter to Prem about that subject.

The second is the Heng Samrin regime's proposal -- of course with Hanoi's permission -- for Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but that is old hat. The previous such proposal was turned down because both ASEAN and China thought it was just a ploy to degrade in the UN the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea which Sihanouk heads. This week US Secretary of State George Shultz will be taking up the Khmer issue in Moscow and the same will be done by Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila next month when he goes there.

Possibly more important than these moves are the Sino-Soviet normalization talks, the 10th of the semi-annual meetings, which begin in Moscow tomorrow because the Soviet Union has for the first time accepted the discussion of China's 'three obstacles'. The main obstacle, according to Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, is the Soviet help given to Vietnam in her occupation of Kampuchea.

The Soviet Union has continually taken the stand that the Khmer issue should be solved by China negotiating with Vietnam but now for the first time it has undertaken to discuss its own role in the Vietnamese escapade. To do so adequate preparation will be necessary for the Soviet side and we would view Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit last month to Thailand, Australia, Indonesia and Indochina in that light.

Much had been expected of his visits to Jakarta and Hanoi but his talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja fizzled out and nobody was informed about what happened in Hanoi. Much had been expected in Jakarta since Mokhtar is ASEAN's interlocutor with Hanoi. Taking the hint from what Shevardnadze said in Bangkok, he was asked to take an Afghan-style initiative to solve the Kampuchean conflict but he contradicted himself and said that such a solution was not applicable to Kampuchea.

So it was only natural that observers dubbed Shevardnadze's tour a failure but we would not dismiss it so casually. His intention was to sound out both ASEAN and Hanoi on the Kampuchean issue and not to attempt to come up with a formula. What he has learned from the tour and his assessment will be passed on to the Soviet team negotiating the three obstacles with the Chinese delegation tomorrow.

Hanoi also has the Kremlin greatly indebted to her because of the military complexes in Danang and Cam Ranh Bay which are highly essential not only to service her Indian Ocean fleet but also to make any military penetration of the South Pacific possible. Vietnam may be a political obstacle to Soviet policy on the Asia-Pacific region but she is a military asset. How Shevardnadze and his superiors have weighed the issues involved will be revealed in the Soviet position taken in talks with the Chinese delegation.

FRENCH ADVISOR MEETS WITH SITTHI ON SRV ISSUE

BK110919 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Francois Missoffe, an advisor to the French prime minister, met with Foreign Minister, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, at the Foreign Ministry this morning. He had just returned from a visit to Hanoi. Deputy director general of the Information Department, Somphan Kikilanon reported on their meeting:

[Begin recording] Mr Missoffe said he met with several Vietnamese leaders, including Pham Van Dong, Nguyen Co Thach, and Mai Chi Tho. Concerning Cambodia, he said Vietnam had not changed its attitude, but he had been assured that all Vietnamese soldiers will be pulled out from Cambodia in 1990, or even earlier. He said Vietnam repeated its earlier proposal, that a meeting be held between Prince Sihanouk and Heng Samrin. Thailand therefore does not see any new and constructive change in Vietnam's attitude. Missoffe also reported to Thailand that from his visit to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City he saw that Vietnam is very poor and beset by numerous economic problems. [end recording]

STATE TRANSPORT FIRM SIGNS CONTRACT WITH LAOS

BK110635 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Thailand's state-run Express Transport Organisation (ETO) and the International Construction and Transport Company of Laos [ICTCL] signed a five-year contract yesterday that has set up direct transport services between the two nations to prevent overcharging by middlemen.

The contract was signed by ETO director Pongphon Adireksan and Thao Chanthavong Malaiphet of the ICTCL at ETO headquarters after several rounds of negotiations.

Laos had complained about high transport fees and asked for them to be reduced. The ETO found out that middlemen had been overcharging Laos, prompting Vientiane to call for their elimination.

To prevent disputes over transport fees between the two state organisations, the new contract clearly indicates customs fees and transport charges from place to place, said Mr Pongphon.

He said that at least 10 Thai firms had been involved in transport services between the two countries, and that some had overcharged Laos.

In November of last year, Mr Pongphon and ETO officials visited provinces on the Thai-Lao border and the Thai Embassy in Vientiane to investigate the complaint.

INTERIOR, DEFENSE MINISTERS' VIEW RANGER PROTEST

BK090401 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Democrat Party MP's have decided to withdraw the motion seeking an explanation at a house session about the Rangers' protest at M.R. Khukrit Pramot's house on 5 April. They have been informed by the Interior Ministry of its policy to protect individuals' freedom and properties to the best of its ability. Interior Minister General Prachuap Suntharangkun says:

[Begin recording] It is the duty of the Interior Ministry to see to it that its policy of protecting individuals' freedom and rights, lives and properties is continuously and successfully carried out. [end recording]

The Defense Ministry, meanwhile, will set up an investigation committee at the army level to find out, as soon as possible, the intention behind the protest. Defense Minister Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat told newsmen the following:

[Begin recording] In general, if something like this happened, the Defense Ministry would set up a committee to investigate the incident, and determine whether the rally was an offense. I have contacted the army commander today by telephone and was assured by him that the matter would be investigated by the Army. The Army will report to the ministry the result of the investigation. [end recording]

MP THREATENED FOR HOUSE MOTION ON RANGERS

BK120614 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 11 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Democrat MP Karun Saingam of Buriram Province, who submitted an urgent motion for his party to call an urgent motion in parliament for the government to show its courage by prosecuting Ranger volunteers for demonstrating in front of M.R. Khukrit Pramot's house, has received a threat against his life. Karun said at about 2230 on 9 April an anonymous phone caller told him he was too aggressive and should be prepared to die that night.

Karun said the cause of the phone threat likely stemmed from his being instrumental in seeking for his party to call an urgent motion in Parliament over the Ranger volunteer's demonstration at Khukrit's house, but he also felt it could be the work of instigators as well. He said he took the threat seriously because the homes of Samak Suntharawet and Khukrit were already hit. He asked whoever targeted him to spare him from any untoward incident. He said he already informed Phichai Rattakun, his party leader, and the police chief and asked for police protection. Three policemen from the local police station and the 191 unit have been sent to protect him, he said.

NHAN DAN HAILS SOVIET MISSILE REDUCTION PROPOSAL

OW120751 Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 12 -- The daily NHAN DAN today praises as "important and well-intentioned" the Soviet Union's proposal on starting negotiations on reducing and eventually eliminating tactical nuclear weapons alongside the talks on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe.

The proposal, the paper says, was stated by Soviet party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague during his official visit to Czechoslovakia. The Soviet leader is also quoted as adding that after the signing of an accord on medium-range missiles and independent on negotiations on shorter-range missiles, the Soviet Union would withdraw its missiles deployed in the GDR and Czechoslovakia in reply to the sitting of U.S. new-type medium-range missiles in western Europe.

"This initiative" NHAN DAN stresses, "once again shows the Soviet Union's profound sincerity in untiringly struggling for ridding Europe and the whole mankind of the danger of nuclear weapons and other mass-killing weapons, and safeguarding peace and security for all nations".

The paper recalls that together with Mikhail Gorbachev's statement in Prague, the Warsaw treaty members have proposed to the NATO member countries a mutual freeze of military expenses at their present level for the next year or two, and the start of negotiations on the reduction of troops and conventional weapons in Europe.

"The new initiatives made by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries," NHAN DAN notes, "immediately have repercussion all over our planet. They are voices of reason and goodwill, and they respond to the earnest aspirations of the whole mankind".

"To achieve a comprehensive and complete disarmament, the Soviet Union has put forth many fair and reasonable measures, which won a world-wide welcome. But the United States has made perfidious allegations to refuse them", the paper says.

The paper goes on: "The bellicose forces in the United States and some other NATO member countries have created obstacles by linking the elimination of intermediate range missiles to other issues. By so doing they have proved themselves inconsistent and unserious.

"It is well-known that the Soviet Union is by all means trying to remove obstacles and push up the process of disarmament. Its stance is quite different to that of the United States, reflecting the new thinking of the international development and the high sense of responsibility to the destiny of all nations".

The paper criticizes the United States and some other NATO member countries for, instead of giving a positive response to the proposals, creating more obstacles and delaying an agreement on the intermediate range missiles in Europe.

Castigating the western concept of the nuclear deterrent, the paper notes that the U.S. and its allies want to have more nuclear weapons instead of eliminating them, and that they want to maintain the danger of a nuclear holocaust instead of removing it.

The paper stresses that the western nuclear-based policy is the main obstacle to the process of nuclear disarmament. It notes that all nations are protesting this policy because as the Soviet leader M. Gorbachev put it: "The peoples cannot and do not want to be hostages to the selfish interests or madness of the militaristic circles".

In conclusion the paper voices Vietnam's full support for the new initiatives on peace and security in Europe put forth by the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw treaty member countries. It urges the U.S. not to miss the opportunity brought about by the Soviet Union. All allegations and attempts to delay or cause obstacles to an early agreement on Euromissiles are unacceptable, NHAN DAN stresses.

COMMUNIST LABOR DAY HELD TO MARK LENIN'S BIRTHDAY

OW121521 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 12 — Vietnamese cadres and workers and Soviet experts working at the construction site of the Hoa Binh hydro-electric power station today participated in a communist labour day in honour of the 117th birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin (April 22) and May Day.

More voluntary labour days will be organized there to boost the building speed. This is in the framework of the labour emulation movement launched among the Vietnamese cadres and workers and Soviet experts at the site to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Russian October socialist revolution. Talks, art performances and sport events were also held on the same purpose.

HANOI REPORTS VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN TRADE MISSION

BK120323 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] An Australian trade delegation led by Richard Fletcher, Australian senior trade commissioner, recently paid a working visit to Vietnam. The delegation included representatives of 10 Australian government-owned and private companies and representatives of the Australian Ministry of Trade and the Australian Embassy in Vietnam.

The delegation worked with the Vietnamese Foreign Trade Ministry and was briefed on Vietnam's socioeconomic development and the draft of a new investment law. It visited many export goods producing establishments and foreign trade agencies at the central and local levels to exchange views on the possibilities of goods exchange and economic cooperation between the two sides in 1987 and subsequent years. Trade between Vietnam and Australia has great potential for development. The value of trade between the two countries in 1986-1987 may quadruple compared to 1983-1984.

RADIO EDITOR VIEWS SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BK101420 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Editor Vu Dinh Vinh's feature: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense"]

[Excerpt] Developments in the situation in the various regions of Asia have continued to attract the attention of public opinion. It was no coincidence that an Asia Week was opened in the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] on 4 April.

A special feature is that the week began with various activities in solidarity with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Delegates taking part in the event clearly pointed out that imperialism is the culprit who has caused many hotbeds of tension on the Asian continent.

One of the regions where the imperialists and reactionaries are feverishly making trouble is Indochina. The peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia are building socialism, courageously overcoming numerous difficulties in the process of development, and resolutely countering all schemes of sabotage from outside.

Indeed, at the northern border of Vietnam, the local armed forces and people are continuing to maintain a high level of combat readiness to oppose the enemy's provocations, shellings, and intrusions. They remain alert in view of the preparations for war being made across the border.

Meanwhile, at the Thai-Cambodian border, especially on Hills 342, 408, and 500, since February the situation has become tense and even explosive, as the French news agency AFP in Bangkok has remarked. The real cause of this situation is the fact that the Thai authorities have repeatedly and falsely accused Vietnamese army volunteers in Cambodia of violating Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity and occupying some areas in the Thai province of Ubon Ratchathani. This is a fabrication with ill intention aimed at concealing Thailand's serious acts of repeatedly violating Cambodian territory, airspace, and waters, and assisting the Cambodian reactionaries in their activities against the Cambodian people.

On the other hand, the efforts of the imperialist and reactionary circles to continue fostering and using the Pol Pot clique and other Cambodian reactionary groups and to tout and peddle their so-called 8-point proposal have revealed their long-range scheme of utilizing their henchmen as a tool to oppose and sabotage the revolution in the three Indo-Chinese countries, thereby making the situation in the region more tense and complex.

Public opinion in some ASEAN countries themselves has objected to this policy. Recently, the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA carried an article by Manai Sophian, a famous political and social activist of Indonesia, which clearly pointed out: The achievement of a political solution in Cambodia must be based on the elimination of Pol Pot.

The article said: The ASIAN and Indochinese countries recently showed their goodwill and their readiness to make concessions in the course of dialogue between the two groups of countries. The two sides reached agreement on a series of issues including the future of the Cambodian people, which must be decided by the Cambodian people themselves.

The article pointed out: However, the Khmer Rouge faction led by Pol Pot currently constitutes the majority in the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Because of Pol Pot's bloodstained hands, many ruling circles do not want him to join this government. Pol Pot and his cohort have for long lost all contact with their compatriots and have virtually become a foreign army. If Pol Pot is allowed to return to power, there is the danger of a civil war breaking out in Cambodia and spreading throughout the Southeast Asian region. Thus, public opinion in the region has become wary of the dangerous calculations and sinister schemes of the imperialist and reactionary forces as revealed by their current activities. [passage omitted]

PHAM VAN DONG MEETS FAMILY OF FORMER KING 11 APR

OW111555 Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 — Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong received at the presidential palace here today members of the (family) of the late patriotic king Duy Tan.

The reception is occasioned by the return to the homeland of the remains of the king to be reburied at the former royal palace in Hue City.

Chairman Pham Van Dong highly valued the late king's patriotism, courage and energy.

Georges Vinh San, the eldest son of King Duy Tan, his sister and two young brothers, who escorted their father's remains from France, were present at the reception.

ASSEMBLY ELECTION PREPARATIONS REPORTED

Report by Radio Correspondent

BK091336 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Report by station correspondent (Tran Trong Chuy): "Preparations for the Upcoming National Assembly and People's Council Elections in a Number of Mekong River Delta Provinces" — portions recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear friends: Recently, we have had the opportunity to seek an understanding about the preparations for the National Assembly and People's Councils elections at the district, village, and corresponding levels in a number of Mekong River Delta provinces such as Tay Ninh, Tien Giang, Cuu Long, and Dong Thap.

Though faced with common difficult economic conditions and having a lot of important and emergency work to do such as troop recruitment, winter-spring crop harvest, summer-fall crop planting, and grain procurement, the party committee echelons, the VFF Committees, and various mass organizations in these localities have made great efforts to accelerate their work, ensuring that their electoral preparations are carried out flexibly and not for form's sake.

We found that the hectic atmosphere of the pre-election period is prevalent not only in those major cities such as My Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Sa Dec, and Cao Lanh but also in the border district of Hong Ngu, the remote villages of Long Hau and Thanh Hung in Dong Thap Province, in sparsely-populated Duong Minh Chau — a former revolutionary base area — and in Hoa Thanh of Tay Ninh where 90 percent of voters are Caodaist sect followers.

In addition to tens of thousands of posters, banners, and slogans put up in Dong Thap and Cuu Long Provinces, there have been many forms of propaganda which, though simplistic and economical, are vivid, such as using megaphones and reporter-propagandists or having opera houses or outdoor movie sites devote 15-20 minutes to spreading propaganda about the elections prior to the start of their main programs. Local newspapers, radio stations, and district and village wired-radio stations have also increased their numbers of pages and broadcasting hours in order to answer queries about the Electoral Law and discuss the need to achieve renovation in these elections.

Particularly in Tay Ninh where water conservancy work at the Dau Tieng reservoir is being intensively carried out, involving the employment of 2,000 to 3,000 people for months, many propaganda units have gone there to help keep voters informed of the needs and the significance of these elections as well as the election day.

Dear friends: Besides the easily noticeable hectic atmosphere, a question is raised: What about the voters' interest in these elections? Following many official and unofficial meetings with voters in various wards and villages of the four provinces, we have generally observed that it is not economic difficulties that cause the people to have no interest in selecting their deputies. The fact is that the people are longing for renovation -- a broadened democracy. But it is because the breach of democratic principles is still prevalent in society, especially in remote rural areas. This is also because democracy is both a goal and a driving force that contributes to renovating the old mechanism. This fact has been reflected through various consultative meetings held to nominate candidates, criticize National Assembly deputies and people's councilors belonging to the preceding term of office, and to raise their suggestions to the candidates running for this upcoming term of office. The new nomination method has made voters feel truly democratic. Formerly, candidate lists were drawn up beforehand by the party committees, the administration, and the VFF Committees concerned before soliciting voters' opinions. Therefore, some voters complained that since these candidate lists had already been decided upon before hand, of what use was it to contribute their opinions? You could elect anyone you like! Thus, it is clear that voters were deprived of the right to select and nominate their own candidates and that they refused to make their views known because they felt angry and, chiefly, feared prosecution.

Localities Continue Preparations

BK101046 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] In the early days of April, the electoral councils of Hai Hung, Bac Thai, Ha Tuyen, Lam Dong, and Lang Son Provinces continued to prepare for the National Assembly and people's councils election at two levels [district and village] scheduled to be held on 19 April.

Candidates to the Eighth National Assembly election met with representatives of voters in many production and work units. In Hai Hung, all meetings between candidates and voters were organized in a careful and really democratic fashion. Many voters acclaimed the selection of candidates for the National Assembly and people's council elections based on the suggestions of voters living and working in the same places with the candidates, and the fact that all constituencies fielded three candidates for each seat to give voters a choice.

In Hai Duong City, more than 200 voters contributed numerous opinions for the Eighth National Assembly to consider and act upon. Their opinions reflected the status of production and the cultural and social life in their locality. They suggested that the province solve at once the question of wage and price compensation payments for cadres, workers, and people entitled to the benefits of this policy. The voters also made suggestions concerning some points of the current policy on families of war invalids and fallen soldiers which they considered unsatisfactory. They asked that the party and state pay attention to guiding law enforcement and deal severely with transgressors of the law including leading cadres.

Hoang Lien Son Prepares

BK120735 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] In these days, from the population centers, cities, and towns to hamlets and villages in the border highlands of Hoang Lien Son Province, urgent efforts are being made to prepare for the elections of the National Assembly and people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels. The posting of voters namelists and announcements of the names and biographies of candidates have been completed.

In the process of the preparations, the VFF Committees at various levels paid attention and carefully listened to the opinions of the people of all strata from the grass-roots level up, and promptly answered all questions and satisfied the wishes of voters. From the original list of 75 persons recommended by the people, the VFF Committee of the province, after collecting suggestions of the grass-roots level and holding two consultative conferences, has officially nominated 12 candidates to run for seven seats in the Eighth National Assembly. Following the announcement of the candidates' names, the VFF Committees at all levels have organized many meetings between the candidates and voters. The exchanges of views between the candidates and voters reflected a constructive and candid spirit and a resolve to tell the truth. Most of the suggestions made by voters to the soon-to-be-elected National Assembly and people's councils dealt with measures aimed at encouraging production, restoring order on the front of distribution and circulation, severely punishing those engaged in illegal business activities, eliminating negative phenomena, realizing social justice, and gradually stabilizing the working people's living conditions.

Representatives of the people of the Thai, Hmong, Dao, and Tay nationalities and of the people in various new economic zones in Van Chan, Van Yen, Yen Binh, and some northern districts suggested the adoption of a policy providing adequate material incentives for growers of tea, cinnamon, medicinal herbs, and other industrial plants and special crops of which Hoang Lien Son can ensure a large output for people's consumption and export. Representatives of the Ngoi Lang forestry site proposed that concrete measures be taken to implement the policy of combining agriculture with forestry.

Dong Nai Province Meeting

BK101145 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Only 10 days remain before voters throughout the country will cast their ballots to elect deputies of the Eighth National Assembly and people's councillors at various levels. As the time is short, voters in Dong Nai Province have been enthusiastically seeking to know the candidates standing for election in their constituencies — determined to select trustworthy persons who will represent the people and reflect their voices at the National Assembly and the local legislative organs.

Unlike during previous elections, Dong Nai has, this time, done away with formalistic procedures and has, instead, intensively concentrated on conducting realistic activities — from recommending candidates to organizing their meetings with voters. First of all, regarding the list of candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly, apart from 2 comrades recommended by the central level, 19 other candidates have been selected by the various grass-roots units. The 21 candidates are running in four electoral units, with each of them representing a locality, a sector, or a population stratum.

Of the candidates, 30 percent are women, 30-35 percent are young people, and over 30 percent have completed college. It can be said that if elected, any of these 21 candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly will be worthy of his or her new position.

What did the candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly and people's councils at various levels in Dong Nai tell the voters in view of the current difficult situation? The answer is found at the various meetings -- or more aptly, frank, open-minded, constructive, interesting, and democratic dialogues -- between candidates and voters in various localities of Dong Nai Province.

At a meeting between voters and candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly in Electoral Unit 2 which comprises Thong Nhat and Long Thanh Districts, a voter frankly voiced his thought about the performance of deputies to the previous terms of the National Assembly. He raised the question as to whether, judging from past experience, National Assembly deputies have been staying aloof from the masses, or voters have been incapable of truly exercising their right to mastery through their ballots and are not paying attention to their representatives; and he said it was not until today that voters had realized this.

Proceeding from their needs and the practicality of the National Assembly, the voters spoke about the difficulties and obstacles facing agricultural production, life, culture, education, public health in the rural areas. [Passage omitted on voters' presentation of problems facing production and everyday life in their localities]

Generally speaking, during their meetings with voters, candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly and people's councils at various levels in Dong Nai attentively heard the people's aspirations. The problems raised by voters centered around industrial, agricultural, and fishery production as well as the distribution and circulation of goods, the living conditions of cadres, workers, and state employees, and life in the rural areas. Indeed, never before had the people of Dong Nai had an opportunity to speak out their thoughts and problems in face of the current difficulties to National Assembly deputies and their direct local leaders. All the problems were raised frankly for the common good.

In their speeches to voters, the candidates running for the Eighth National Assembly pledged they would reflect the former's aspirations at the National Assembly if they were elected. On the part of candidates running for people's councils at various levels, they promised to serve the people well and strive to resolve local problems under their jurisdiction.

As each ballot is a brick building democracy, voters in Dong Nai are actively considering the worthiness of candidates so they will be able to cast their ballots properly on 19 April.

Thai Binh Province Meeting

BK120326 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Thai Binh radio correspondent's report, on 10 April the VFF Committee of Thai Binh Province organized meetings between 25 National Assembly election candidates and representatives of voters in various districts and cities and in some agricultural and small industry and handicraft cooperatives. Each meeting was attended by 700-1,000 voters' representatives.

Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPV Central Committee, met with representatives of voters of the electoral unit comprising Kien Xuong and Tien Hai Districts, where he was nominated to run for election. Comrade Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers met with representatives of voters of the Thai Thuy electoral unit.

The candidates answered questions raised by voters concerning current pressing issues in production and life and regarding pricing policy.

Meanwhile, the candidates running for election to the next people's councils also met with voters and collected their suggestions which will be included in the program of action of the new people's councils. In Dong Hung District alone, more than 2,400 suggestions have been collected.

Hanoi Prepares for Elections

BK101114 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 apr 87

[Text] The Organization Committee of the Hanoi municipal administration has directed the various precincts, districts, and cities to open professional training courses for more than 5,000 cadres assigned to electoral work at the various city wards and villages to prepare them for guiding voters in correctly observing electoral procedures on 19 April. The municipality's more than 2,000 electoral sites have finished preparing main and supplementary ballot boxes and correcting errors found in the lists of voters. The municipality and its precincts, districts, cities, wards, and villages have finished printing namelists of candidates running for the National Assembly and people's councils at various levels, biographies of candidates, and voting slips.

The various electoral units have posted biographies of candidates together with their photos in public places. Hoan Kiem and Dong Da Precincts and Tu Liem and Thanh Tri Districts have set up inspection teams comprising representatives of the public security, army, court, control, public health, and judiciary sectors as well as of some mass organizations; and sent them to the various city wards and villages to determine cases involving people who lose the right to vote and are not allowed to exercise that right so their names will be excluded from the voters' list; and, at the same time, to restore the right to vote of ex-convicts who have undergone reformation satisfactorily and had their citizenship recognized.

The culture and information sector of Hanoi Municipality has displayed numerous banners and posters at various crowded main streets and public places to draw attention to the elections as well as the municipality's political tasks. The municipal radio station and the wired broadcast stations of the various precincts, districts, cities, wards, and villages have launched a concentrated propaganda campaign to introduce electoral law, namelists of voters and candidates, and the rights and obligations of voters and members of the National Assembly and people's councils at various levels.

In the meantime, VFF Committees at various levels in the municipality have coordinated with the various sectors and mass organizations in organizing meetings between candidates and voters and arranging for voters to discuss candidates' biographies and study the eligibility criteria for National Assembly deputies and people's councilors so they can select the candidates they trust for the organs of state power.

Female Candidates Meet Voters

BK101159 Hanoi Domestic Services in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 9 Apr 87

[From the 9 April press review]

[Text] The paper HANOI MOI today frontpages a report reflecting some meetings between voters and female candidates running for election to the National Assembly and the people's councils at the ward and subward levels in Hanoi. The report says in part:

In their meetings with female candidates running for election to the National Assembly and the people's councils at ward and subward levels, women voters representing the female workforce and cadres of the women's union at various levels all pointed to the pressing needs arising from the life of a broad array of women in the municipality. They suggested that the state promptly adopt measures to maintain firmly the value of the currency to help the local women and their families minimize difficulties in their daily life at a time when their wages cannot catch up with the rising prices of goods. The need to send their children to creches or nurseries and to educate them is also an anxiety for many mothers.

After hearing the views expressed by women voters, these candidates solemnly promised to pass them on to the people's councils or National Assembly, if elected. They also affirmed that apart from performing work at their organs and enterprises, they will attend to the livelihood of women and will submit suggestions to protect the interests of women and children.

Preparations Completed

BK121212 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Preparations for the elections to the National Assembly and the people's councils at all levels have been completed. Lists of voters and candidates with biographies are posted up at almost all constituencies throughout Vietnam.

HANOI PREPARES FOR PEOPLE'S COUNCIL BY-ELECTIONS

BK120430 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] By authorization of the Council of Ministers, Hanoi will hold by-elections to fill 10 vacant seats in its ninth municipal people's council on the same day as the elections for the eighth National Assembly and people's councils at the two basic levels.

On 10 April, the VFF Committee of Hanoi held consultations for the last time with various sectors, branches, mass organizations, and VFF Committees in 16 precincts, districts, and cities. They unanimously nominated 20 people as candidates for voters to elect 10 deputies to the municipal people's council. The VFF Committee of Hanoi has turned over to the municipal electoral council the files on the 20 candidates so that they can be recommended to various electoral units.

In the coming days, the VFF Committees at various levels of Hanoi will coordinate with all sectors, branches, and mass organizations to organize meetings between the candidates and voters.

NHAN DAN URGES CADRES TO MEET WITH PEOPLE

BK121351 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Apr 87

[NHAN DAN 11 April editorial: "Establish and Satisfactorily Follow a Pattern for Meeting With and Talking to the Masses"]

[Text] Meeting with and talking to the masses in order to sound out their opinions and draw their suggestions constitute an important way to change the work style of all echelons, sectors, and cadres. Many party committee echelons have paid attention to sending cadres to grass-roots units to meet with the people. The Executive Committee of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization has set up various offices responsible for meeting with the people. The party committees and people's committees of many precincts in the city have established a schedule to meet the people every week to gather their views and acknowledge their suggestions. The Hoang Lien Son provincial party committee has on several occasions arranged for party committee members and cadres at the provincial and district levels to speak with local people of different strata. The Vinh Phu provincial party committee has established a system enabling cadres to travel periodically to various grass-roots units to meet with the people.

In Son La Province, the Moc Chau District party committee has decided that on the seventh of every month its members must travel to various villages and grass-roots units to brief the people on the results of their work in the previous month and on their work programs and plans for the current month, as well as to ask the masses to offer their opinions concerning various policies and tasks of the district. On the occasion of the 57th founding anniversary of the party, all party committee echelons organized meetings with the masses to acknowledge their suggestions. In preparing for the elections of the Eighth National Assembly and the people's councils at the district and village levels, they also arranged for the candidates to meet with voters and so forth.

By satisfactorily organizing meetings with the people, some localities have been able to develop the right to mastery of the masses and establish a close relationship between the party and the people. Meanwhile, the masses have contributed to various echelons and sectors many practical views and concrete measures for surmounting all difficulties and carrying out all tasks.

Through these meetings, cadres at various levels have been able to understand the real situation in order to make correct decisions. In many localities, thanks to their meetings with the people, various echelons have been able to adopt measures to promptly and successfully correct mistakes, thus winning the admiration of the masses.

Apart from these positive deeds, many party committee and administrative echelons still have not paid adequate attention to this matter. They still have not arranged for or assigned competent cadres to meet with the people daily or periodically. Some organs have even refused to allow the masses to see them.

The party Central Committee Secretariat has issued a directive on improving the quality of party members and intensifying the party's militancy and leadership ability, with emphasis on the need to send cadres to meet with the masses to acknowledge their suggestions. However, many echelons have implemented this directive hastily and perfunctorily.

Meeting with and talking to the masses means manifesting the party's viewpoint of using the people as the base and constitutes an important factor with which to change the style of leadership of all echelons and sectors.

Through their meetings with the masses and cadres and party members at the grass-roots units, all echelons and sectors can penetrate life and reality, can overcome the bureaucratic work method, and can understand the feelings and aspirations of the people.

In meeting with and talking to the people, cadres of various echelons will hear from them various useful ideas and initiatives, thereby helping to solve difficulties and obstacles faced by localities and units. It is also a good opportunity for cadres to directly propagate and disseminate to the masses various party and state policies and positions, thus creating unity between the party and people and between higher and lower echelons. It is also a concrete measure for training party cadres and members.

To satisfactorily carry out meeting with and talking to the people, we must truly respect the people's right to collective mastery, overcome such practices as negligence and fear of not being able to solve problems raised by the people. Realities prove that at places where meetings with the peoples are satisfactorily carried out, the people showed a high sense of responsibility when discussing problems relating to their daily life, especially issues concerning democracy and social justice. Through these discussions, irrational points of policies and positions as well as errors of various echelons, sectors, and some party cadres and members may be pointed out.

The people earnestly hope that various echelons, sectors, and party cadres and members promptly change their work behavior, enhance their leadership quality, and further improve all tasks in localities and at units. Some persons, however, may express ideas not in a constructive manner; in such case, leading cadres at the meeting must patiently listen to them and explain to them all the pros and cons, or organize a discussion afterward to find the best solution.

In organizing each meeting with the people, we must at least obtain some concrete results. We must avoid organizing such meetings just for form's sake. Various echelons of cadres must fix their scheduled meetings with the people of various strata regularly. They must organize meetings in compliance with the objective and requirement of each occasion. Collecting information from the lower to higher levels is an important process in helping leaders to make their decisions. Before issuing decisions, each echelon and sector must assign cadres to meet with the people of all strata who will be affected to collect their ideas. In such meetings, cadres must respect and listen to the people's ideas. Problems raised by the people, if they can be solved, should be done so promptly. As for problems which are not within their authority or cannot be solved, they should make this clear to the people and forward these problems to related organizations or to higher echelons. They must not give the people a hollow promise because this will damage the people's confidence in the authorities.

To bring about concrete results in various meetings with the people, all echelons and sectors when assigning cadres to carry out this task must make careful preparations. Cadres responsible for such meetings must firmly grasp various state policies and clearly understand the objectives of these meetings. They must carefully listen to the people's ideas, know how to motivate them to express their viewpoints, and be able to integrate ideas for discussion. Prior to these meetings cadres must anticipate problems which the people may raise and prepare themselves to be able to make clear to the people that their ideas are important. Satisfactorily organizing meetings with and talking to the people at grass-roots units for party cadres and members will help cadres at various echelons and sectors overcome the condition of lacking democracy and reality in discussing problems, thereby enhancing the quality and effectiveness of their leadership.

A U S T R A L I AHAWKE CONCERNED OVER LIBYAN SOUTH PACIFIC PUSH

BK070924 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has expressed concern over Libya's renewed push for influence in the South Pacific. Speaking in Melbourne, Mr Hawke said any country in the region that entered in dealings with Libya was making a very grave mistake. The prime minister was responding to reports that Libya had stepped up its push in the region by offering paramilitary training courses, secret political donations, and promises of substantial economic aid.

Mr Hawke said recent history had shown that Libya's record had been one of terrorism and destabilization. He said it was not wanted or needed in the South Pacific, and added that Australia would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with France in condemning any Libyan presence in the region.

Mr Hawke also gave an assurance to countries in the region to assist them with any real concerns that they may have over any Libyan presence.

TRADE MISSION RETURNS FROM HANOI AFTER TALKS

BK101011 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] An Australian trade mission has ended a visit to Hanoi for talks aimed at increasing bilateral trade with Vietnam. The delegation made up of businessmen and employees of private and state enterprises, met their Vietnamese counterparts and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The Australians expressed interest in importing agricultural, food, fishery products as well as minerals. In return, Australia hoped to export refrigeration equipment and technology for mineral processing and food products.

The Australian Embassy in Hanoi said bilateral trade had developed considerably during the last few years increasing from \$3 million in 1983-84 to nearly \$8 million in 1985-86.

ANC'S TAMBO ON ALLEGED U.S. BACKING OF PROTESTS

BK070926 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The leader of the African National Congress [ANC], Mr Oliver Tambo, says he is not surprised by claims that protests against his visit in Australia are backed by American money. Mr Tambo is in Australia at the invitation of the Australian Government.

He told a news conference in Adelaide that he is not concerned in the slightest by the protests against his visit which he says are being organized by one or two individuals. He says that even if money to finance these demonstrations is coming from the United States, he is confident in the strength of ANC-United States relations.

MARCOS LOYALISTS REPORTEDLY PLOTTING COUP

HK110622 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 11 Apr 87 pp 1, 6

[By Vittorio Vitug]

[Text] A faction in the military composed mostly of enlisted men loyal to deposed President Marcos is plotting to stage another coup d'etat on or before the May 11 legislative elections, military intelligence sources told MALAYA yesterday.

The target of the plotters, the sources said, are the International School (IS) campus in Gen. Luna St., Makati, and vital communications facilities of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company.

By taking over IS and holding hostage its students and teachers, the plotters intend to generate international attention to their "cause" and eventually pressure the international community to support their call for the resignation of President Corazon C. Aquino, Defense Secretary Rafael M. Iloilo and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fidel V. Ramos, sources said.

The head of IS is the wife of Gen. Ramos.

Dubbed as "enlistedmen's revolt," the plot was expected to be carried out by about 1,000 lower ranking soldiers led by a master sergeant, sources said.

The leaders, sources said, have already been identified by Armed Forces high command.

Sources said that more than a year after the Marcoses and their cronies were ousted from power through a civilian-backed military revolt February last year, the deposed President and his loyal followers are still financing their local followers to destabilize the Aquino government.

A "selective red alert status," meanwhile, has been hoisted at Camps Aguinaldo and Crame to pre-empt the plot, MALAYA learned. Troopers were also dispatched to secure vital communications facilities of the PLDT, television and radio stations as well as electric and water facilities, it was also learned.

Troop movements from various [Armed Forces of the Philippines] "elite" units were also observed by MALAYA in both military camps.

Sources said the financiers of the coup, who are closely associated with Marcos, are orchestrating the plot using lower-ranking officers after past attempts using ranking officers "paid" to destabilize the government had failed.

At the slightest hint of defeat, the sources said, officers either withdraw or surrendered to forces loyal to President Aquino and Gen. Ramos.

One officer, who asked not to be identified, said that the plotters should be allowed to make their move and "let hell break loose."

"Pabayaang na lang natin silang gumalaw. Kung barilan ng kapwa sundalo sa kapwa sundalo handa ako para matapos na ito,". ["Let's just let them make their moves. If the soldiers kill their fellow soldiers, I'm ready to finish it off."] The officer said.

Coup Plan 'Neutralized'

OW130921 Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 13 KYODO -- A plan by dissident soldiers to seize foreign students as part of their bid to force President Corazon Aquino to step down has been "temporarily neutralized," a military officer said Monday. Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre told reporters that pro-Aquino troops had taken "preemptive action" deploying troops at the International in Makati which caters mostly to children of the foreign community residing in the capital. "(It was) supposed to happen in the last two weeks," he said.

An Education Ministry official said there are 74 Japanese students enrolled in the school where the wife of Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos, Amelita, is head of the High School Admission Department. A school employee said that officials were on a week-long conferences and that students were on their summer break.

Aguirre said that troops are still stationed at the school as well as other vital government and private installations.

The commander of the Capital Regional Command (Capcom) said that his men are still gathering information and expected the plot to be "completely neutralized" after the May 11 congressional elections.

He also said that plotters, which he indicated are, loyal to deposed Ferdinand Marcos, "might try" to mount an operation before the polls.

The MANILA TIMES newspaper reported Sunday that three truckloads of soldiers had sneaked out of Fort Bonifacio, Army headquarters, and could not be located.

It quoted Brig. Gen. Antonio Samonte, deputy chief for Army Intelligence, as saying that the mission soldiers were supported by "10 tanks and an undetermined number of V-150s (armored personnel carriers)."

At least 300 soldiers are facing charges because of last January's failed mutiny which involved the takeover of a television station and the seizure of several military camps.

NPA WARNS U.S. ADVISERS 'POTENTIAL TARGETS'

HK120735 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Apr 87 pp 1, 10

[By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo]

[Excerpts] Two top officials of the New People's Army [NPA] yesterday warned US advisers engaged in counterinsurgency work here that they are "potential targets" of communist hit squads.

One of the NPA leaders, who identified himself as Sergio Romero, told a clandestine news conference in Metro Manila that armed city partisans, popularly known as "sparrows," have killed 33 people in the capital region since 1984.

Most of the executions, according to Romero, took place following the lapse of the 60-day truce on Feb. 8 between government troops and NPA rebels during which both sides tried but failed to forge a peaceful settlement to the 18-year communist rebellion.

"We are here," said Romero, spokesman of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the special NPA unit which carries out all "sparrow" operations in Metro Manila.

It was the first news conference called by the NPA group since it made its debut in May 1984 with the killing of Brig. Gen. Tomas Karingal, the police commander of Quezon City. The brigade is named after a militant union leader at Solid Mills Inc., a textile factory in Sucat, Paranaque. Boncayao, who lost in the 1978 interim Batasang Pambansa elections under the Lakas ng Bayan ticket of former Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., was killed by soldiers in an encounter in Nueva Ecija in 1983.

"We have the capability to escalate, but as of now we do not intend to enter that stage," said Romero. He, together with another brigade officer who identified himself as Emil Trinidad, wore baseball caps and sunglasses during the news conference somewhere in Metro Manila. Both looked healthy and are in their early 30s. They spoke in Filipino.

"All U.S. military and civilian advisers, officers and men who engage in the planning, design, funding or implementation of counterinsurgency programs and operations" are potential targets of the NPA sparrow units, Romero said.

The United States, the country's main trading partner, maintains two large military bases here and extends military assistance to the Armed Forces, but has denied NPA accusations that it provides military advisers to counterinsurgency operations. [passage omitted]

During the news conference, Romero and Trinidad gave reporters a list of eight police and military men whom the brigade "punished" in Metro Manila this year for their "blood debts against the people." The two officials also said the brigade is claiming responsibility for the execution of 10 other "local informers and bad elements" during the same period.

Sixteen of the targets were killed while the other two, both police officers, were wounded in lightning attacks by "sparrow units," Romero said. Their crimes, according to him ranged from "salvaging" to "busting of labor strikes."

Romero and Trinidad said NPA armed city partisans are trained to shoot their targets "on the head and the chest to paralyze them." Sparrows, according to them, use either a .38 cal. revolver, a .45 cal. automatic, or a 9mm. machine pistol.

The two officials cited three policies governing NPA operations in Metro Manila in view of what they decried was the "massive disinformation campaign against them by the military."

— Targets of attack are only those police officers and men "who are proven to have incurred blood debts against the people, to be gross violators of human rights and to be actively involved in counterinsurgency operations."

-- Operations shall be undertaken only against "combatants of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] which are based in Metro Manila, particularly high-ranking officers and those engaged in anti-people actions."

-- NPA partisan units are prohibited from engaging in "such actions as bombing, arson, bank robberies, theft or kidnaping, which put the lives of innocent civilians in danger and which have no clear political or military value."

According to the two NPA leaders, civilian officials who force civilians to form "vigilante groups or spy networks" and those who lead or organize groups to fight the NPA are also "potential targets."

The two said retired CIA Gen. John Singlaub, who had reportedly struck deals with rightwing groups this year, was among the targets. Asked if Local Governments Secretary Jaime Ferrer, a vigilante advocate, was among the targets Romero said his case was being studied.

The two belied military reports that sparrows have been immobilized. "Not a single partisan member of any unit under our command has been arrested or killed in any of these operations," Romero said.

Irma Villamor, who confessed to participation in the killing of a Pateros police captain in Pasig, was not an NPA member, Romero said. He said members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade themselves killed Capt. Jose Merano, a police station commander.

Romero declined to disclose how many NPA guerillas are operating in Metro Manila, but said there was brisk recruitment among "urban poor, workers, students, out of school youths, and some professionals" who would someday work as "full-time" guerillas.

At present, according to Romero, the Alex Boncayao Brigade has "enough" members to attack town halls, but added "they will not do this yet." He said the brigade maintains a unit each in the eastern, northern, and southern part of Metro Manila.

REBELS, SOLDIERS CLASH NEAR AQUINO RALLY SITE

HK120629 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 12 Apr 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] Soldiers and rebels clashed at dawn yesterday in a Nueva Vizcaya barrio 10 kilometers from Boyombong where President Aquino is scheduled to address today a rally of her senatorial candidates.

The clash that occurred in Sitio Malayo, Barangay San Fernando, Bambang town, left a soldier killed and two others wounded, according to Col. Arturo Lumibao, provincial commander.

Initial reports on the incident were sketchy but Lumibao noted that it was the first armed engagement between government troops and New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in the province. No rebel casualty was reported.

Though the clash came on the eve of Mrs Aquino's visit, Lumibao said the security situation in the area was "still normal." The clash "will not affect in any way" security arrangements for the President, he added.

Mrs Aquino will stump through Ilocandia today to campaign for her senatorial bets and to proclaim her candidates to Congress.

Of the so-called Solid North of deposed President Marcos, covering Region I (Ilocos Region) and Region II (Cagayan Valley), the northernmost part she will visit is San Fernando, La Union for a 9 a.m. rally. She will then move to Boyombong, Nueva Vizcaya at 11 a.m.

The government candidates will assemble at the La Union National High School and at the Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology.

Last night, the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy [GAD] was scheduled to hold a rally at the Bayombong Plaza. GAD senatorial candidates Juan Ponce Enrile, who hails from Cagayan, and Blas Ople, were the featured speakers.

Lumibao said he had ordered by late morning yesterday the withdrawal of all troops from barrio Bambang. He also directed Lieutenant Larbrador, commander of the 131st PC [Philippine Constabulary] company assigned in the area, to submit a progress report in the afternoon.

PDP-LABAN CANDIDATE MURDERED ON MINDANAO

HK101209 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 10 (AFP) — A candidate for Congress has been killed in the southern island of Mindanao, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) reported here Friday.

Alberto Dulalas of the pro-government PDP-Laban party was shot dead by unknown men Thursday inside a cockfighting arena in the northern Mindanao city of Oroquieta, which he is seeking to represent in the lower house, PNA said.

He was the second candidate reported killed since campaigning began last month.

Tito Abao, candidate for the pro-government Liberal Party, was killed by unknown gunmen in nearby Misamis Oriental Province late last month.

Three campaigners for the leftist People's Party (PnB) were also reported dead Friday.

The body of PnB campaigner Jovencio Curan was found with stab wounds in Misamis Oriental Wednesday, two days after he was abducted by unknown men, PNA said.

The afternoon daily MIDDAY reported that troops allegedly arrested PnB campaigners Gaudioso Pizarra and Herman Platino from their homes in Catanauan Town, in nearby Quezon Province, then shot them.

The daily did not say when the killings took place.

The government's poll watchdog body said Friday it had disqualified 43 candidates for the May Senate elections for failure to comply with a key requirement, trimming the field to 89 competing for 24 seats.

The candidates, 23 of whom belong to a shadowy party calling itself the Emancipated Scientists while the rest are independents, failed to submit 200,000 copies of their certificates of candidacy, to be distrusted to polling precincts, Commission on Elections spokesmen said.

Philippine election officials are to hold a special registration for new voters this weekend in preparation for the May congressional polls, the first under President Corazon Aquino, officials said Friday.

The poll body expects a million or more additional voters in addition to the 25 million who registered in November, a lawyer for the commission said.

The Supreme Court Friday ordered Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer to stop forcing appointed local officials to campaign for administration-backed candidates, PNA reported.

Supreme Court officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

PNA said the tribunal issued the temporary restraining order after hearing arguments of two former town mayors and a former provincial governor recently sacked by Mr. Ferrer allegedly for refying his order that they support President Aquino's handpicked candidates.

LARGEST NPA CAMP IN NORTHERN LUZON SAID CAPTURED

HK130209 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] The military reported continued gains in operations being launched under the Armed Forces' Operation Red-Buster. The biggest gain by the military was the capture of the biggest NPA [New People's Army] camp and general headquarters of the Communist Party's NPA command in Northern Luzon. The camp, in the jungles of Kawit Town in Kalinga-Apayao, was overrun by attacking government troops last week. The 1,000-man NPA Force, under (Ignacio Kapsigan) fled toward the (Hinundungan) Valley. Pursuit operations by government troops are continuing.

The troops seized many claymore mines, a dump truck, three bulldozers, Petromax and fluorescent lamps, stocks of gasoline, batteries, bundles of maps, generators and subversive documents, medicines and food supplies. The camp is also being used as a major training area for NPA recruits. The NPA rebels abandoned the camp after a 30-minute fight with government troops. Colonel (Bernabe Orena) of the Army's 15th Brigade said indications show the NPA force suffered many casualties, which were dragged away by their comrades in accordance with the NPA practice not to leave their dead or wounded.

Fighting was also reported in Davao, where (?seven) NPA rebels were killed. One rebel was also slain in an encounter in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

2 NPA LEADERS ARRESTED; URBAN TERROR WAVE SEEN

OW111329 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Cebu City Philippines, April 11, KYODO -- Two leaders and three suspected members of the insurgent New People's Army (NPA) were arrested following a series of military operations in the hinterland of this city, 550 kilometers south of the capital, military authorities said Saturday.

Nation Police Chief Major Gen. Renato de Villa, meanwhile, ordered all regional police commanders to "upgrade" the shooting skills of their men to counter the expected escalation of urban terrorism.

Cebu City military authorities said one of those arrested has a 50,000-peso reward for his capture and was alleged to be responsible for a series of killings and kidnappings.

Assorted weapons and several hundreds of rounds of ammunitions were confiscated from those arrested, authorities said.

"This terror plan is due for implementation in urban centers such as Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro City, and Davao City," said De Villa who is visiting Cebu. Local constabulary and police authorities have continuously received reports that armed men suspected to be connected with the underground movement were seen "making night calls" in remote mountain villages here and several areas in central Visayas.

'CAUCASIANS' ACCOMPANY COMMUNIST REBELS

OW101303 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 10 KYODO -- Six rebels and one militiaman were killed when a 120-man guerrilla band, accompanied by "two caucasians," attacked a village and burned a Protestant church and several houses in a farming town in Cagayan Province, 350 kilometers north of the capital, the government's news agency reported Friday. The PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) report said the attack in the village of basing in the township of Lasam occurred last Tuesday and government troopers engaged the rebels in a four-hour gun battle.

The report said militiamen present during the firefight said they saw "two caucasians" but cannot say whether the two were armed.

Manila's newspapers, quoting unnamed Philippine Intelligence sources had reported last month that the Soviet Union is providing "funds, arms, and guerrilla warfare expertise" to the New People's Army (military arm of the banned Communist Party). These reports alleged that Russians were suspected of training NPA rebels in the southern island of Mindanao. Renewed hostilities between the soldiers and the NPA guerrillas after a temporary truce expired and peace talks between the emissaries of President Corazon Aquino and the rebel coalition National Democratic Front has resulted in the death of more than 700 soldiers, rebels, and civilians.

NPA REBELS RAID MILITARY OUTPOST IN PANGASINAN

HK101105 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Manila, April 10 (AFP) -- Communist guerrillas have raided a military outpost, ambushed a fire truck and engaged security forces in firefights, leaving 15 people dead, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) said Friday.

New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas ambushed a fire truck in the eastern town of Buhi, 290 kilometers (174 miles) southeast of here Thursday, killing six policemen and two firemen, PNA said. Two Policemen were reported wounded in the attack. It was not immediately clear whether the vehicle was responding to a fire alert or was merely being used by police patrols.

Two NPA guerrillas were killed in a clash with a security patrol in Calabanga Town, near Buhi Wednesday, the agency added.

PNA said four NPA Guerrillas were killed Thursday in a clash with Army Rangers near Isabela Town, in the central island Negros. Some 50 rebels overran a military detachment early Friday in a village near Mangatarem, in the northern province of Pangasinan, leaving one soldier dead and three wounded, PNA reported. Military spokesmen here could not immediately confirm the reports, which would bring the death toll in insurgency-related incidents this year to 812, or a daily average of nine dead.

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